



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session**

**Day 67**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Friday, March 8, 2019**

Pages 5337 – 5370

**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**

(Monfwi)

---

**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

(Great Slave)

*Government House Leader*

*Minister of Health and Social Services*

*Minister Responsible for Seniors*

*Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities*

*Minister Responsible for the Public*

*Utilities Board*

**Mr. Tom Beaulieu**

(Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh)

**Mr. Frederick Blake**

(Mackenzie Delta)

**Hon. Caroline Cochrane**

(Range Lake)

*Minister of Education, Culture and*

*Employment*

*Minister Responsible for the Status of*

*Women*

**Ms. Julie Green**

(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. Bob McLeod**

(Yellowknife South)

*Premier*

*Minister of Executive and Indigenous*

*Affairs*

**Hon. Robert McLeod**

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

*Deputy Premier*

*Minister of Finance*

*Minister of Environment and Natural*

*Resources*

*Minister Responsible for the Northwest*

*Territories Power Corporation*

**Mr. Daniel McNeely**

(Sahtu)

**Hon. Alfred Moses**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

*Minister of Municipal and Community*

*Affairs*

*Minister Responsible for Northwest*

*Territories Housing Corporation*

*Minister Responsible for Addressing*

*Homelessness*

*Minister Responsible for Youth*

*Minister Responsible for the Workers'*

*Safety and Compensation*

*Commission*

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Mr. Herbert Nakimayak**

(Nunakput)

**Mr. Kevin O'Reilly**

(Frame Lake)

**Hon. Wally Schumann**

(Hay River South)

*Minister of Industry, Tourism and*

*Investment*

*Minister of Infrastructure*

**Hon. Louis Sebert**

(Thebacha)

*Minister of Justice*

*Minister of Lands*

*Minister Responsible for Public*

*Engagement and Transparency*

**Mr. R.J. Simpson**

(Hay River North)

**Mr. Kieron Testart**

(Kam Lake)

**Mr. Shane Thompson**

(Nahendeh)

**Mr. Cory Vanthuyne**

(Yellowknife North)

---

### Officers

**Clerk of the Legislative Assembly**

Mr. Tim Mercer

**Deputy Clerk**

Mr. Michael Ball

**Committee Clerks**

Ms. Gail Bennett

Ms. Jennifer Franki-Smith

**Law Clerks**

Ms. Sheila MacPherson

Mr. Glen Rutland

Ms. Alyssa Holland

---

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

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

<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>5337</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>5337</b>
167-18(3) – International Women's Day (Cochrane).....	5337
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>5338</b>
International Women's Day and Women's Representation in Politics (Beaulieu).....	5338
International Women's Day (Vanthuyne) .....	5338
Recognition of Janelle Bruneau (Thompson).....	5339
International Women's Day (Testart) .....	5339
Yellowknife Public Hearing by the Special Committee on Increasing Women's Representation (O'Reilly).....	5340
International Women's Day (McNeely).....	5340
Honouring the Words of the Late Elise Gargan (Nadli).....	5341
Recognizing Youth Advocate Chukita Gruben (Nakimayak).....	5341
Community FireSmart Funding (Blake).....	5342
International Women's Day 2019 and the Special Committee on Increasing the Representation of Women (Green).....	5342
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>5343</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>5344</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>5349</b>
<b>FIRST READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>5349</b>
Bill 44 – Forest Act.....	5349
Bill 45 – Corrections Act.....	5349
<b>SECOND READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>5352</b>
Bill 42 – An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act.....	5352
Bill 43 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act .....	5358
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>5359</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>5368</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>5368</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Friday, March 8, 2019****Members Present**

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

The House met at 10:01 a.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 167-18(3):  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge International Women's Day. International Women's Day is held annually on March 8<sup>th</sup> to celebrate women's social, cultural, and political achievements throughout history and across nations. International Women's Day also provides an important opportunity to showcase commitments towards women's equality, to raise awareness, and to highlight initiatives towards gender parity.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day is "Better the Balance, Better the World." As the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am committed to achieving gender equality throughout our society. To me, the theme "Better the Balance, Better the World" means having women at the table making decisions that affect our everyday lives for the benefit of all. Women make up half the population of the Northwest Territories and the world. It is only reasonable to expect that half the people in a position of power should be women.

Mr. Speaker, gender equality is something many nations aspire to. Far too often, we fall short of achieving that goal, but it is not impossible. We have to work together to get there. Here in the Northwest Territories, we are taking steps towards gender equality. When we passed a motion in March 2018 to increase women's representation in the Legislative Assembly, we collectively said we support this initiative. When we set up the Special Committee to Increase the Representation of Women in the Legislative Assembly, we demonstrated our willingness to work together to improve the gender balance in this House and to

open important public discussions on how best to do this.

There are many exciting initiatives both within and outside government right now: the Trail Blazer event, campaign schools, Ted Talks, and various leadership events.

Our young women and girls have great potential to be our future leaders. We need to provide them with the support and tools to reach that potential. Providing better access for women to education, affordable housing, healthcare, employment, and childcare helps women, but it also helps build a sustainable economy and benefits our society as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that women continue to face gender-based barriers and discrimination. These obstacles make it difficult for women to get an equal footing. We must continue to work together to develop and implement strategies to eliminate these barriers, prevent violence against women and girls, update policies and programs to promote the development of women in leadership positions, and continue the momentum to take action to achieve gender equality.

I thank all Northwest Territories' women for their invaluable contributions to our society today and throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, I invite each Member of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing International Women's Day. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to visitors in the gallery. Here with us today is Lynn Turcotte from Gameti. With her are Anita Turcotte and also Bridget Huff, both from Toronto. Welcome to the Northwest Territories and welcome to our Assembly. [Translation] We also have Violet Camsell-Blondin here with us in the gallery. Welcome. [Translation ends] Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

## Members' Statements

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN POLITICS

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today we celebrate International Women's Day. The purpose of this commemoration is to bring attention to and advocate for the advancement of women in all areas of our society. On this day, we acknowledge gender inequalities and celebrate the empowerment of women. According to the official website for International Women's Day, this year's theme is "Balance for Better," which is a call for action for improving gender parity across the world.

In honour of this theme, Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss the issue of women representation in electoral politics. This issue has been studied by many bodies, including the United Nations, the Parliament of Canada, and our own Legislature of the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations determined that, in order to achieve significant policy change in government, all parliaments must attain a 30 percent threshold for women.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, our current Legislative Assembly in this Assembly does not meet that threshold. Our legislature consists of just 10.5 percent women. However, there are other political arenas within the NWT that have exceeded 30 percent, and I would like to highlight some of them today. For example, in our last 10 federal elections from 1988 to 2015, five of 10 elections were won by a woman, and that candidate was named Ethel Blondin-Andrew.

More presently, Mr. Speaker, since 2015, our capital city of Yellowknife has had a city council consisting of 37 percent women. In addition, as of 2018, four of the most populated communities in the NWT all elected women as mayors, with Rebecca Alty in Yellowknife; Kandis Jamieson in Hay River; Natasha Kulikowski in Inuvik; and Lynn Napier-Buckley in Fort Smith. In addition, there are five Dene communities where they are currently led by female chiefs, which includes April Martel of K'atlodeeche, Becky Cayen of West Point, Wanda Pascal of Tetlit Gwich'in, and Bernice Furlong of Inuvik Band and Freida Martselos of the Salt River First Nation. Mr. Speaker, I speak unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marsi. Also, two of five of the regional grand chiefs within the Dene Executive Council are women, with Bobbi Jo Greenland as

Gwich'in Grand Chief and Gladys Norwegian as the Deh Cho Grand Chief.

Mr. Speaker, while these stats have improved over the years, both within the territory and across the country, I know that our society can do better. In fact, in our upcoming territorial election, I hope to see women running in every single of the 19 ridings in the NWT. Even better, I hope to see at least six or more women elected to our Legislative Assembly to meet the 30-percent benchmark that all parliaments should aspire to attain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like most of my colleagues, I want to say something in respect of International Women's Day. In past years, for International Women's Day, I have spoken about my mother. She was an independent businesswoman, a single mother, and I couldn't imagine there was anything my mother couldn't do. When you grow up in that kind of household, there is no doubting how capable women are.

We are fortunate in the North, Mr. Speaker, that we have plenty of strong examples of women in leadership. I am not just talking about the women in this room or the women who were chosen as mayors and chiefs in elections last fall. Certainly, they are important role models and examples of successful women, but that is just the tip of the iceberg. I am talking about the strong, articulate visions that were presented at the independently organized TEDx conference in Yellowknife just before Christmas. Visions of academic and professional achievement and success, visions of strong balance between roles in family and leadership in the community. I am talking about the strong representation that emerged through the public consultations of our Special Committee on Increasing the Representation of Women. Those hearings identified some of the inherent barriers to increased participation of women in politics, barriers we must all be aware of and commit to confronting. Our role as leaders should be a look forward, Mr. Speaker, and to imagine: what is the best that we can do? What is the best that our family, our community, and our territory can be? Once we have a vision of what that is, Mr. Speaker, it should be on us to design a means to get there. I believe our territory will be stronger, fairer, and more capable if we have more women in positions of leadership and power.

It is an election year, Mr. Speaker, both in our territory and across the country. Maybe that is an

opportunity to take some steps forward in representative democracy. Maybe it is a chance to get a little more balance on the ballot.

Mr. Speaker, on this International Women's Day, I would like to encourage more women to get involved, get to the meetings, share your ideas, put your name forward. It is time for every level of government to more accurately reflect all the people we serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF JANELLE BRUNEAU

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to speak about a very special young lady from the Nahendeh riding. I have had the pleasure of witnessing her grow and develop into a leader since she was in grade seven. The person I am talking about is Janelle Bruneau. She is a daughter of Doris Pellissey and Daniel Bruneau. Her mother is from Wrigley and her father is from Fort Smith. She is very thankful for their continued support and guidance.

After graduating, she wanted to see what Canada had to offer, experience a different culture, face new challenges, and meet new people. McGill University gave her all this and more. Janelle is in her fourth year and is taking Geography as her major. She explained it is a diverse program that focuses on the physical and social environments that shape people's lives. She finds the courses very interesting. Her minor is in Indigenous Studies. It is about critical engagement in the Indigenous topic. It is about how Canada engages with Indigenous people and about the diverse history of all Indigenous people across Canada.

Beyond her studies, Janelle has been part of a group that is trying to make the campus safer and more inclusive for Indigenous students, since the university is well-known across the world for their programs. Unfortunately, sometimes a university doesn't seem to understand the difficulty Indigenous students face.

Another thing the group is trying to do is change the men's varsity team's name, the Redmen. The group has been working on this for the past year or so. It is about educating the masses about how offensive the name is for Indigenous people. Because of her advocacy, she has faced pushback from alumni and the varsity teams. Despite the reaction to this initiative, they have been successful in the principal of the university seriously looking at their concerns. A decision will be made in April.

Janelle feels that there is a need for more support for students who choose to study in the South. The support is vital for success in academics and essential for students to return to the North as effective members of our northern society.

Janelle encourages all students to have the strength to face adversity while chasing their dreams so you can become successful and proud of yourself. I wish her all the best and look forward to seeing her become one of our future leaders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is March 8<sup>th</sup>, and that means it is International Women's Day, which gives us a clear opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women. As an ally, I do not wish to put words in the mouths of others, but wish to stand behind and support the actions, initiatives, and fights that are being led by women leaders from coast to coast to coast and around the world. Our society, cultures, country, and lives are enriched daily by the tireless efforts of women with whom we co-exist. Today is a chance for all of us to celebrate the achievements of the all-too-often unsung heroines in our lives and to renew efforts to achieving greater gender equity and equality.

I want to commend the honourable Members of this House for making women's political equity a top priority of this government, and in particular recognize the ongoing leadership on this and so many other issues by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre and the honourable Member for Range Lake.

The political lives of women have often been fraught with challenges. In the Canadian context, I must note the work of five incredibly strong Albertan women for speaking truth to power, Canada's famous five. Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, and Emily Murphy fought tirelessly for many issues, but their most long-lasting and wide-ranging struggle was for women to be recognized as persons under Canadian law. Now, this might seem quaint today, but the struggle is not over. It has merely become more nuanced. I want to thank and show my reverence to the battle these women fought for their common-sense acknowledgment that yes, indeed, women are persons.

In more recent news, the honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould is in the middle of her own battle. The truths and facts are battling out, and we have seen here many of the same talking points by her

opponents as we have heard in the past. Whatever the outcome, Ms. Wilson-Raybould's belief is she is "always willing to speak truth to power" is a lesson that we can all use as a reminding of. It is not easy to stand against one's colleagues, but it is important to stand one's ground, have your perspective heard, and to work tirelessly for meaningful action for change.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my statement today in the words of another woman who advanced her understanding of radiation and who ultimately paid the price for her work, and I hope that that serves as a reminder to us all that the road to progress is long and must be fought for. Madame Marie Curie: "I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
YELLOWKNIFE PUBLIC HEARING BY THE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INCREASING  
WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. On the occasion of International Women's Day, I would like to speak about what we are doing to promote women in leadership. I attended the lively public hearing in Yellowknife on January 17<sup>th</sup> by the Special Committee on Increasing the Representation of Women. There were about 30 participants, including media, and I would like to commend everyone for the respectful dialogue and the ideas that were put forward.

There were three main themes presented. One idea was to run elections for a woman and a man in each riding in the NWT to ensure that half of the MLAs are women. This is an interesting idea, but would probably not work, because not everyone identifies as binary.

Several presenters said that guaranteed representation of women through temporary seats raises issues of tokenism, may not address the root causes, and may lead others to request guaranteed representation.

Last and not least, some participants endorsed the idea of temporary special measures, where guaranteed seats is the only way to create the revolutionary change that is needed to ensure that women take their rightful place in decision-making here in the Northwest Territories.

There was also some discussion of how we can make the Legislative Assembly a friendlier place for those with young families.

This special committee has its work cut out for itself, and I thank all of the Members who have volunteered to serve on it during this last busy stretch of this Assembly. I participated in some of their meetings and truly appreciate the work being undertaken by the Members who have volunteered to serve.

The special committee is still accepting written submissions. I look forward to their report and encourage further input from Frame Lake residents and everyone in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is International Women's Day. This day was first recognized as a global event by the United Nations in 1975, but its origins go back to the early 1900s, as women fought for the right to vote.

It is a day for celebrating the socio-economic culture and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for gender equality. It is a day to acknowledge and support women's rights and to celebrate their many significant achievements.

Over the last 100 years, women in many countries have made advances towards gender equality by fighting for labour rights, protection from violence, access to sexual and reproductive health, equal pay for equal work, as well as reaching the highest positions of leadership.

However, there is still a long way to go. As of 2017, there were only 15 female world leaders. While the number of current female leaders has more than doubled since 2000, these women still represent fewer than 10 percent of the 193 UN member states. According to the World Economic Forum, 33,000 girls under the ages of 18 become child brides every day, and women in rural parts of Africa spend 40 billion hours a year collecting water.

At the current rate of progress, they estimate that it will take 108 years to close the gender gap. This is a notable statistic, given that the theme of this year's International Women's Day is "Balance for Better," which acknowledges that everyone benefits in a gender-balanced world. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, there is some positive progress to take note of. More girls than boys now complete their

secondary education in 32 of 34 OECD countries. We are seeing a growing interest for women in all aspects of society.

In this past October 2018 territorial municipal election, four of six mayor positions were taken by women. I hope to see more women serving as elected MLAs in the House by this time next year. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge all women in the NWT and their important achievements on this International Women's Day. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
HONOURING THE WORDS OF THE LATE ELISE  
GARGAN

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to honour a late elder on this day, International Women's Day, the late Elder Elise Gargan. She was quoted in sharing her stories in the Book of Elders, Nahecho Keh, and usually I read it in Slavey, but this time I wanted to read it in English.

These are quotes from Elise Gargan. Elise Gargan was born on March 12, 1926, up river from Fort Providence:

"When I was young, I really loved the elders. I used to wash their clothes and heat water for them so they could wash, just as if they were the parents I never had. I believe that, for every cup of tea I placed before them, I gained one more day on this earth for myself. I enjoyed doing these things for them out of love.

"No one ever taught me to work. I watched others, then I'd try. If I didn't sew something properly, I'd undo it and try again until I could do it. If you keep on trying, eventually, you'll succeed.

"I married when I was 15 and really had a hard time struggling to survive. Nowadays we live in luxury compared to how it used to be.

"Life was especially hard for the woman. When the man is away, the woman had to feed the children. No matter how cold it was, I had to check the snares. Before I left the children, I had to tie a leather thong around the waist of one and tie the end to something stable, put another in their swing cradle, and leave the elders to watch them all. That's how we used to live.

"The low points of my life were hunger and sickness. We didn't know how to help each other when there was sickness and there was no doctor. Sometimes we boiled herbs. Sometimes just thinking of getting better helps you overcome.

"When you're out in the bush, you sometimes experience real physical pain. It was especially difficult giving birth. Sometimes you didn't know what to do, and you're very thankful if your child is alive."

"The land gives less now. Once it was so new and very beautiful. I wonder if our children will ever have the experience of living on the land as we did, but the loss of this way of life has come in their generation. Education will give them a chance at another way of life now that many of them are no longer able to survive in the bush." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
RECOGNIZING YOUTH ADVOCATE CHUKITA  
GRUBEN

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a youth advocate from Nunakput.

Ms. Chukita Gruben is a 24-year-old Inuvialuk from Tuktoyaktuk who loves her culture, family, and the people who call this northern region home. Chukita comes from a very culturally oriented family who taught her the values of her traditional lifestyle, yet the importance of education that is needed in today's world. She recently completed a two-year term in December with the Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation as a director, and during that time, she was working with the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk and for the Tuktoyaktuk District Education Authority. This young woman used these opportunities to grow and learn, utilizing her young voice and taking action.

Mr. Speaker, Chukita has helped contribute in tourism development projects with the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk and has done a lot of work around climate change by collaborating with scientists, researchers, politicians, and the media to showcase the impacts of climate change and how it is affecting their lifestyle, causing them to adapt. There is now a community-based monitoring program that was recently launched by the Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation to help educate the people and be a part of the environmental concerns, adding into the Mangilaluk School curriculum and colliding traditional knowledge and western science data together.

Mr. Speaker, this young woman with her passion has had a lot of support and help to make these initiatives possible. Chukita has also volunteered a good amount of her time to visit schools and inspire youth to take advantage of opportunities that come up in this region. She has supported them by filling

out paperwork and helping them to fundraise to travel for youth conferences in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Chukita herself knows that these positive initiatives and knowing her cultural identity make an impact and are meaningful. She has travelled to many places in Canada and abroad to Alaska attending meetings. Mr. Speaker, in 2017, she was our youth representative for the Canada C3 expedition that went from coast to coast to coast for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was on leg 12, and the ship left from her home town, Tuktoyaktuk, and ended in Prince Rupert, BC. Ms. Gruben has sailed for 20 days, stopping along communities to help build relationships, connect and educate Canada on key themes such as diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, youth engagement, and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank her for her remarkable contributions to our society. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY FIRESMART FUNDING

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources works with communities on plans to reduce the risk posed by summer wildfires. Implementing these plans is really important. We all know of communities where residents had to be evacuated when the fires were burning too close.

It is typical for communities to cut a firebreak around the community, which is a widely accepted way to reduce the risk to both life and property. Cutting firebreaks is especially important in our small communities, which have limited resources for fire departments, let alone capacity to take fast action to defend against wildfire moving in.

The department knows of this, Mr. Speaker. In 2015, its review of the previous year's terrible fire season resulted in a number of recommendations. One of the most important was the need to encourage communities to fire smart to protect their valuables at risk. I want to be clear. The valuables at risk are lives, homes, businesses, community halls, offices, schools, and gyms. There are a lot more, but you get the idea.

It seems that it is far easier for communities to get encouragement than it is to get money to actually do the work. The reality is that the fire smarting of a community costs money, and our communities do not have it.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources used to fund communities for fire smarting but now expects the communities to use their capital funding to do it. I want to say the department passed the buck on this, but it is more like the department is not passing on any bucks to do the job.

We all know about the huge shortfall or the funding gap that communities have faced for years when it comes to capital funding. Communities are already being short-changed on funding to meet pressing infrastructure needs. Telling communities to cover the cost of fire smarting is just adding insult to injury. It won't get the work done. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BLAKE:** This leaves communities scrambling for dollars through funding proposals to various outside governments. This is a haphazard, high-risk approach to protecting lives and property, Mr. Speaker, and I will have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019 AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INCREASING THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This year's International Women's Day comes at a time of heightened interest in the role of women in politics. This interest started at the time of the last presidential election in the United States, when the most qualified candidate ever to run did not win. It has continued to the present day, when Cabinet Minister resignations in Ottawa have highlighted the highs and lows of political life for women. None of this has gone unnoticed by the women of the Northwest Territories. The Special Committee on Increasing the Representation of Women in our own Legislative Assembly has had great turn-outs at its community hearings. Women want to know how they can take their place in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, there is a pool of women in the Northwest Territories who are eligible, qualified, and willing to run. Meeting the eligibility is simple. Women need to be 18 years old, a Canadian citizen, and a resident of the Northwest Territories for a year. They are qualified to run by virtue of their life experience. "Just come as you are, ladies," said a friend of mine recently elected to the Yellowknife city council. None of us came here knowing everything we needed to know to do this job, but, since women worry about whether they are

qualified, it's worth mentioning that women in the Northwest Territories graduate from high school in greater numbers than men and are more likely to have a university degree. For most women in the Northwest Territories, the biggest consideration is being willing to run.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about why it's worth running. I ran after many years as an advocate for housing and women's issues. I wanted to talk about those issues in this House and push for change. Research says other women often run for the same reasons. They are advocates, and they want to pursue those policy issues that are important to women, issues that are not being discussed as often or even at all by men. That does not mean that women cannot or will not talk about economic development, financial policy, or land management. Of course they can, but their male colleagues are less likely to talk about pay equity, universal access to family planning, or violence against women.

Mr. Speaker, this is where women's voices can make a difference, and the more the better. Research indicates elected women promote gender equality and strengthen democratic institutions because women are often willing collaborators. Women also make substantive contributions to the consideration of government spending and population health. In short, women can change the world, not only for women, but for everyone. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, women have a right to be in this Chamber, whatever their priorities. They have a job to do shaping policy and making change, but, perhaps most importantly, by being here, they show other women what's possible. If you can see it, you can be it. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to recognize Arlene Hache, who is a constituent of Yellowknife North who is also a very well-known and very well-recognized social advocate, and especially for women. I just want to welcome you here and say thank you for being here on this International Women's Day.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. [English translation not provided.] Member for Range Lake.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to recognize the attendance of the board of the NWT Status of Women Council and their executive director here in the House today: Ms. Violet Camsell-Blondin, our president; Rita Arey, vice president; board members Catherine Mackenzie-Taylor, Andrea Steed, and Arlene Hache; as well as the executive director, Louise Elder. I would also like to thank them for their ongoing contributions to improving the lives of women in all of our communities and for being here today, along with the other women in the gallery, to help celebrate International Women's Day. Your presence is very much appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. [English translation not provided.] Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I, too, would like to recognize my friend, Violet Camsell-Blondin, and I have had the pleasure of working with Violet for probably 30 years. She now serves as the chair of the Status of Women Council, and I thank her for her public service. I would like to recognize Frame Lake constituent Louise Elder and thank her for her work as executive director of the Status of Women Council. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. [English translation not provided.] Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I recognized a couple of Pages who we had from Inuvik Twin Lakes. Today, I would like to recognize their chaperone. Blair Conley brought them down here. I would also like to take a minute to recognize Rita Furlong Arey from Aklavik, who I affectionately call Rita B. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. [English Translation not provided.] Member for Sahtu.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize the lady leaders of the NWT Native Women's Association in the gallery, and also Kathy Mackenzie-Taylor from Deline and Rita Arey from Aklavik and my CA, Corrine Ferdinand. Mahsi.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a Thebacha constituent, Andrea Steen.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Hay River North.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a couple of the Pages for Hay River North who have been helping us out through

some of these long nights, Ms. Taylor Giovanetti and Ms. Lizzy Rimer. They have been with us all week, and I really appreciate their assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. [English Translation not provided.] Member for Mackenzie Delta.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Rita Arey from Aklavik, my constituent and also vice-president of the Status of Women, also a retired social worker after many years of service. I thank you for that and all the work that you do. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. [English Translation not provided.] Member for Yellowknife South.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize three Pages from Yellowknife South, Tyson Lafond, Janica-Lei Silverio, and Ryley Steinwand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Ms. Violet Camsell-Blondin. We have run into each other at a lot of Indigenous events and organized working groups around the territory. I appreciate the work that you do. Also, to our friend Arlene Hache, welcome to the Legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we are missing anyone in the gallery, thanks for being here with us. It is always great to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 665-18(3): BILL C-92 IMPACT ON NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The federal government has introduced Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Children, Youth, and Families. The purpose of the act is to acknowledge that Indigenous governments have the right to create their own laws to regulate child and family services. I realize this legislation was introduced only a week ago. Can the Minister tell us how Bill C-92 will apply in the NWT, if at all? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has had the legislation for about a week, and we have been going through and trying to determine how it will impact here in the Northwest Territories. I think there is still more work that needs to be done on that analysis. However, through our early analysis, it is not expected that the proposed legislation will significantly impact how CFS is currently delivered here in the Northwest Territories. It is important to note that the key principles in their legislation remain generally consistent with the principles set out in our NWT Child and Family Services Act, as well as Building Stronger Families.

As the Member said, the purpose of the proposed legislation is to affirm the rights and jurisdictions of Indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services and sets out some principles applicable at a national level to the provision of child and family services to Indigenous children. I would like to note that the Government of the Northwest Territories, both before this legislation and after this legislation passes in Ottawa, has been and will continue to be in support of Indigenous governments exercising jurisdiction in the area of child and family services when they choose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** It seems that the reserves in the Northwest Territories and the Tlicho Community Services Agency may be the most likely entities to want to implement this bill. Does the government plan to provide any particular help to these organizations or Indigenous governments in order to put themselves into a position to implement this act if passed?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Currently, there are two different Indigenous governments that actually have the power and the authority to draw down child and family services today. We are working with all of our Indigenous partners. If these Indigenous governments choose to draw down those authorities now, we will certainly work with them in cooperation with Canada to ensure that those services are drawn down and devolved in a way that gives them the ability to provide high-quality services for all their residents.

**MS. GREEN:** I wonder what this legislation might do to federal transfers for health to the NWT. Would transfers to specific Indigenous governments go via the GNWT, or would they go directly to the Indigenous governments?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Honestly, we can't answer that question yet. One of the issues that has been raised at the national level about this legislation is that there are no dollars tied to it. If dollars come in phase 2, and I believe that is where the federal government said money might come, we would be happy to work with them, with our

Indigenous partners. The bottom line is we all want the same thing, which is fewer Indigenous children in care. We want to build and support stronger families. I think we are all trying to do the same thing. We are prepared to work together.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the responses from the Minister. It is my understanding that the bill allows Indigenous governments to negotiate coordination agreements with provincial and territorial governments as well as Ottawa. Is this an approach GNWT will work with if the bill becomes law? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Our current legislation requires us to work with the Indigenous governments and Indigenous communities here in the Northwest Territories if a child from their community were facing apprehension. We are committed to continuing to do that. If the Indigenous governments choose to draw down these responsibilities, of course, we want to work with them and with Ottawa to make sure that those responsibilities are transferred effectively.

At the end of the day, we want the same thing. We want a system that supports families to stay together where it is appropriate. Where children have to be apprehended, we want to make sure that it is done in such a way as to maintain connections with culture, community, and residents. We all want the same thing. We are prepared to work together with all of our partners to make it a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 666-18(3):  
GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently read the 2017-2018 ITI Grant and Contribution Report. I was happy to read that \$17.6 million was provided to more than 500 individuals, entrepreneurs, businesses, and groups with an economic interest in our territory. Can the Minister of Infrastructure, Tourism and Industry explain how they report on the use of these funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. ITI supports the economy in a bunch of different ways. The grants and contributions document is a testament to that. It is a roll-up of various ways that we invest in industry, businesses,

and entrepreneurs across the Northwest Territories. That said, we also have appropriate but different ways of reporting out of each of these funding areas. We presently have various accounting spending in this House. I have tabled the BDC report in this House, community futures, investments in the Northwest Territories Tourism Marketing Plan. Staff and myself regularly get out and talk to the chambers across the territory to be able to talk about some of these documents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Can the Minister verify if these individuals, entrepreneurs, businesses, and groups need to apply yearly, or can they get multi-year funding through this program?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** For the most part, applicants to the ITI programming, like the Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy, do have to generally apply each year.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I noticed that, on page 4, table 2, "Contributions by clients exceeding \$100,000," the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines received \$190,600, and on page 8, the table "Contribution funding by major program activities for 2018," there is \$100,000 for Aboriginal Development Support Program and \$90,600 for the NWT Chamber of Mines. Can the Minister advise if these funds are the same funding?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** That is a fairly detailed question. I don't have the document in front of me. If I remember right, we list by client, by region, by sector, by program area, and so on in the document, but I think that I can confirm that there are two different accountings of the same funding.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister giving the answers here today. My final question is: from what I understand, the NWT Chamber of Commerce is responsible for providing funding for the Aboriginal Development Support Program. Can the Minister explain why the department uses a third party, the NWT Chamber of Mines, to allocate these funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** This is something that I can talk about for hours, how we are trying to build capacity and participation of Indigenous governments in the mineral resources sector in the Northwest Territories. One of the ways that we are doing that to help grow our economy is through their participation in a number of these industry events. I particularly participate in Geoscience AME Roundup and PDAC. In fact, at PDAC just last week, the chamber hosted an investment event at

PDAC. That included presentations and different discussions with Indigenous business leaders and representatives in the mining project sectors across the Northwest Territories by the Chamber of Mines. This is one of the reasons that we have done this through the chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 667-18(3):  
FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY WILDLAND  
PROTECTION PLANS

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few questions for the Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources. I would like to ask the Minister: what is the department doing to make sure that communities can implement and fund their Wildland Fire Protection Plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know, we have issues with fire around some of our communities, and ENR tries to work with the communities to deal with it. Through, I think, the community access program through MACA, there is some funding there that the communities can use if they want to fire smart their communities.

During this past fire season, it was a fairly quiet fire season for us, so we actually had some members of our fire crews, just to keep working, do some fire smarting around the communities, cut some brush. As we are able to do, we will assist them, but there are some monies out there, I think, through the small community fund that comes through the rural and remote committee. There is funding available there, too, so if a community wants to do some more fire smarting, they have access to some funds. I think we greatly enhanced those funds during this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** I mentioned earlier today that ENR used to fund fire smarting in the NWT communities, but has since offloaded the burden onto the communities themselves. Why was this decision made?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Actually, I don't think that we have offloaded that onto the communities. I think that the communities have taken the responsibility for that on, because who knows the communities more than the community, Mr. Speaker? It is not another pot of money that we have. The small community employment fund had, I believe, about \$4.2 million, of which \$3 million went to a lot of the smaller communities. Through the

process that we are going through right now, we have added more money onto that because it has been such an important tool for a lot of the small communities. They have that opportunity to access that funding, and the communities make the decisions as to what is best for their communities, and they have the funds available to bring some of these projects to life.

**MR. BLAKE:** It is good that the communities took on this responsibility, but we are talking in the neighbourhood of \$200,000, for example, to do a community the size of Fort McPherson. That is competing with capital projects. What is ENR's estimate of the cost to cut firebreaks around the three communities in the Mackenzie Delta?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The exact cost, I am not sure, but a \$200,000 investment, you would think, would save significant dollars if there is damage to the community as a result of the fire. I know that we are in negotiations with Canada on the disaster mitigation funding. That would be another pot of money that communities would be able to access to help with disaster mitigation. We feel that there is significant investment in this particular area, again, so we leave the authority to make these types of decisions up to the communities. You will find that communities do make good decisions. Where there are opportunities, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, with some of our crews that, thankfully, have had a quiet fire season, they are able to assist on this, as well.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seeing as how the Minister is also the money man in the House, fire smarting can save lives and very valuable property, and the cost of doing it is a lot less than many projects that our government routinely delivers. Will the Minister identify funds that communities can use to implement their Wildland Fire Protection Plans by cost-sharing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I am the Environment Minister, so I will speak with the Finance Minister and see if there are opportunities to access more money, but again, through a number of the programs that we have, such as disaster mitigation, there are funds that we will be able to access to assist with the communities. The communities, again, have those funds at their disposal if they choose to use them to do some fire smarting, with the folks that we have, because of the quiet fire season, assisting them. There are a number of opportunities there with the small community employment fund. I believe, in one community, they did a lot of fire smarting, and they did a lot of cutting of dead brush around their community. That's a

good thing. More than anything, we recognize the importance of saving lives, and I think that the communities do as well. If we can, we will work in cooperation with the communities to try to assist them wherever we can to fire smart their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 668-18(3):  
ACCESSING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR MAJOR  
INFRASTRUCTURE

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Finance Minister that I am just going to spring on him. I didn't give him any heads-up. There have been a lot of announcements about funding to examine some of these big projects that the territory is looking at, whether it's the Slave Geological Province road or it's Taltson Hydro. There is a lot of federal money, but we are also putting our money into it as well. When these announcements are made, is there any sort of commitment on the part of the feds that, in addition to giving us the exploratory money, they are going to be paying for major parts of these potential projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are always prepared when there are opportunities for funding from the federal government. One of the things that I have told this House in the last three years is that a lot of the potential savings that we had so that we can match federal money as federal government money becomes available. A lot of the work that the Member is talking about is building a case for these potential projects. Normally, there is the exploratory building a case to try and access the bigger pots of money. When the bigger pots of money are accessed, then I feel that this government is in a fairly good position to do our cost-share of the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SIMPSON:** I appreciate that answer. I know that, you know, the feds aren't going to come out right and say that they can commit right at the beginning here, but I am a little bit concerned because, as we are going through this budget here, our last budget, I see what the debt limit is. I see where we are at, and we are pretty much maxed out. It was about a month ago in the south the Minister said he had initiated some talks with the federal Finance Minister about increasing our borrowing limit and about possibly talking about territorial formula financing, and I know that the Minister hasn't had any time in the past six weeks because we have been here, so I know he hasn't met with the federal Finance Minister, but have we

set a date for these talks to begin so we can really get into the meat of the issue?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I have, as I said, initiated talks with them. We have not been able to sit down yet. We have been in session for awhile, now, but our next Finance Ministers' meeting, I believe, is in June. There might be opportunities for me to have a conversation with the federal Finance Minister beforehand and see if we can work on -- we are fortunate right now that, with the borrowing limit that we do have, most of our project, we are able to fit under there, but if there are announcements for bigger projects that might need more of an investment from the Government of the Northwest Territories, then we need to work with Ottawa to increase our borrowing limit. As we stand right now, I think we are in fairly good shape with the projects that we do have.

**MR. SIMPSON:** I am looking forward to the next Assembly and the Assemblies after that because these are big projects. They are long-term projects. They are not even going to get started in the life of this Assembly and the piggy bank is almost empty, so can we get assurance from the Minister that he is going to have those talks with the Finance Minister in the life of this Assembly so that, going into the next Assembly, we might have the money to complete some of these projects? Because we are spending territorial funds in addition to the federal funds, exploring this project, but if they are never going to get off the ground, we are just wasting our money. So can we get a commitment that those talks will happen and we should see some results this Assembly?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I said I was going to have discussions with the federal government. I was going to have the meetings with the federal minister. I'm a man of my word, and I will initiate those discussions. I think, with the work that we have done in the last three years in the Assembly with some of the corrections we have made on the budget, I think we positioned ourselves very well to be able to match it. I take the Member's point, and as I've said a number of times, a lot of the work that we do here has set the table for those coming after us, so they will be in the position, if there are bigger announcements to be made, they will be in a good position to take advantage of that with our matching dollars. If there are discussions, and I will, and I have said I will, I will initiate those discussions, have those discussions with the federal Finance Minister before the end of this Assembly.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have set the table, then we ate all the food. There is going to be nothing left for the next Assembly. So

just so we know what is going on, would the Minister be able to provide us with a list of projections, cost projections, for these future projects over the next five or 10 years, just so we have an idea so that, you know, when people are considering entering politics next year, they know what they are in for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Most departments have 20-year infrastructure acquisition plans, and as money becomes available, they are able to put those plans in to do the actual building. You know, there are Members who are coming after us and I think we are going to position them to come and realize that there are some decisions that were made in this Assembly, I think, that made their work a little easier, and we hope it is a little easier, and if they are in a good position to match a lot of the federal projects, I don't know what is coming on. I mean, we have had some of the projects that we have been working on or we have been proposing, we have been working with Ottawa, and the departments have 20-year infrastructure needs assessment to have plans, so I think the next government, the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly, is going to be well-positioned to take advantage of any federal dollars that become available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 669-18(3):  
SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERY LICENCES

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. Last week, I made a Member's statement about the great post-devolution resource giveaway, where the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment issued 10 significant discovery licences that tie up petroleum resources forever without any benefits to NWT residents. The original exploration rights were issued by the federal government. Can the Minister tell us whether the federal government made any provision for fees or work requirements in the issuance of those original rights? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has never charged rental rates on significant discovery licences, provided there was a significant discovery declaration in place when the STL was issued. Among the terms and conditions tied to exploration licences, a 25 percent work bid deposit was paid and drilling activity was required in order to maintain the licence for a full term. Interest holders are also required to pay rentals in the second period of an exploration licence as part of a

condition to hold an exploration licence for nine years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Well, it is my understanding that, when the federal government issued those original rights, they made provision for fees to be charged as a rental rate. Perhaps the rental rate wasn't specified, but at least it was in there, so why did the Minister not include any fees or work requirements in the 10 significant discovery licences that he issued?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** These interests were tied to exploration licences issued by the federal government prior to devolution. It has been the policy of our government to hold companies doing business here to the terms they negotiated with the federal government. Future STL rental rates were not stated in the terms and conditions of the original call for bids documents issued by Canada prior to devolution. The GNWT would have been in a high-risk litigation.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I thank the Minister for that explanation. It was a fear of risk of litigation, so that we now don't get any benefits from these significant discovery licences. The Minister last week said that we should not, "set rules without a transparent and open process." The Minister also said that he will consider charging rental rates under the terms and conditions for future bids in the Northwest Territories when we put out plans for petroleum exploration in the future. Can the Minister tell us who is consulted in setting those rates and what they will be?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The topic of rentals and other STL policy elements, such as terms, have been discussed with all current interest holders in the Northwest Territories and representatives of the intergovernmental council during the development and amendments of the Petroleum Resource Act and Oil and Gas Act.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for confirming that for me. For a government that says it is open and transparent, consulting only the industry and perhaps Indigenous governments, only consulting industry, I don't think that is a great idea, and I think that is a clear definition of regulatory capture. Can the Minister make public the work requirements and rental rates for future significant discovery licences and the rationale that he used in setting them? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The proposed amendments that we have put forward for the PRA do include a requirement for the Minister to make

the text of any significant discovery licence publicly available, future STL rental rates, and how STL work will be credited. It will also be specified in the future call for bid documents. Whether or not we publicly release the rationale for the rates that we might apply is more of a policy decision at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 670-18(3):  
SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERY LICENCES

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to follow up again with the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. He talked about two different ways of capturing some benefits from significant discovery licences. One is in the initial call for bids, and second, in the actual issuance of the significant discovery licence itself. In the call for bids, has a decision been made by the Minister on what the rates would be for significant discovery licences in the future? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the interim, we have laid out some rates that are detailed, and we have shared that information with committee.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks to the Minister for that explanation. Is the Minister prepared to make that information public?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I don't see why we can't do that. We can certainly have a conversation with the Member. I will talk with the department, but I don't see why we would not make those rates public if we are going to impose them on industry.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I thank the Minister for that commitment. Can the Minister give me an idea as to when he expects to make this information public?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I will have to talk to our officials and see when we can get that out there and let the Member know.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that commitment again. Can the Minister commit also that, when he puts this information out, he is prepared to accept public comments on it? Because he has already made up his mind perhaps about this without any public input, but I would like to know whether he is prepared to accept public comment when he puts this information out. This is about having an open

and transparent government and not just consulting with industry in setting these kinds of rates.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I will try to make the afternoon, seeing as it's a Friday. This is an interim measure that we have put in place because we saw there was a gap in this one post devolution. The PRA is going to be taken on the road by the Member and his committee, and there will be input from the public if they want to have input on this. Everyone in the Northwest Territories can have input on legislation that is going to be put out there, amongst consultation with all members of the Northwest Territories, industry, and Indigenous governments, and I welcome all comments back on what we want to do around SDLs. 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, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Justice.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 379-18(3):  
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO,  
CANADIAN LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE  
ASSOCIATION TO ASSISTANT DEPUTY  
MINISTER, JUSTICE REGARDING GENETICS  
AND INSURANCE, DATED MARCH 5, 2019

TABLED DOCUMENT 380-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION  
619-18(3): NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY IN THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Letter from President and CEO, Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association to Assistant Deputy Minister, Justice regarding Genetics and Insurance, dated March 5, 2019"; and "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 619-18(3): National Energy Board Regulatory Authority in the Northwest Territories." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

### First Reading of Bills

BILL 44:  
FOREST ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 44, Forest Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The motion is in order. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried.

---Carried

Bill 44 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

BILL 45:  
CORRECTIONS ACT

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 45, Corrections Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The motion is in order. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried.

---Carried

Bill 45 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 42:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE PETROLEUM  
PRODUCTS TAX ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 42, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act, be read for the second time.

The bill amends the Petroleum Products Tax Act to impose a carbon tax on petroleum products and natural gas. It makes the amendments necessary for collection and administration of this new tax to be handled in the same manner as the current fuel tax. Purchasers are required to pay the tax, and vendors and collectors are required to remit the tax to the Government of the Northwest Territories. The bill allows the Minister to provide in regulation for rebates and grants and increases the maximum fines and penalties which may be imposed either as administrative penalties or on summary conviction. Finally, the bill adds provisions for the appeal of an assessment of tax, interest or administrative penalties under the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I will provide some introductory remarks and then turn to the process used to develop the bill. I will also provide some comments on the bill and concerns with what is there and what is missing.

The recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says we are already seeing the consequence of global warming, with an increase of 1 degree Celsius in annual mean temperature. There is more extreme weather and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes. The report notes that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius would require "rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society." Ninety-one authors and review editors from 40 countries prepared the report, with more than 6,000 scientific references cited. This is very serious, and, if we wish to save this planet from irreversible damage, we need to act now. The good news is that some of the kinds of actions that would be needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius are already underway around the world, but they need to accelerate.

Canada has signed on to the global agreement to better address climate change. A real carbon pricing system for the Northwest Territories can help us in fighting this emergency. We must pursue legislative and policy changes to ensure the climate change leadership and an energy strategy built on renewables that does not masquerade as an infrastructure funding demand.

The process. The history of carbon pricing during this Assembly has been a convoluted one, at best. Cabinet developed three separate but related initiatives related to climate change. The first and obviously highest priority for Cabinet was the 2030 Energy Strategy, which leap-frogged ahead of the other two initiatives and even has a costed three-year action plan where 44 percent of the greenhouse gas reductions are supposed to come from a billion-dollar Taltson hydro expansion. The poor cousin, the Climate Change Strategic Framework, has languished, still has no action plan, and fails to respond to the Auditor General's report to establish the necessary leadership and authority for climate change success. Finally, there is a carbon pricing scheme which is the subject of this bill and is to be used to fund the GNWT contributions to the energy strategy.

In May and July of 2016, the Premier was in the media opposing a carbon tax. Thank goodness a new government was elected in the Yukon in November 2016 because that seems to have moderated GNWT messaging around carbon pricing. On December 9, 2016, the first ministers, including our Premier, announced the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. This would allow Canada to meet its

international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

I appreciate that a lot of effort has been put in by Cabinet to work out the details of an NWT carbon pricing system. I just do not agree with their approach. GNWT put pressure on the federal government to ante up money for its favourite energy megaproject, the expansion of Taltson hydro, for export to unconfirmed southern markets and to other unconfirmed and hypothetical users in the Slave Geological Province. A discussion paper on the GNWT's approach to carbon pricing was finally released on July 26, 2017. Public comment closed on September 15, 2017.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations tried unsuccessfully several times to get the Minister of Finance to develop a number of options or scenarios for carbon pricing. He was urged to consider creating a competitive fund for large emitters to reduce emissions, larger investments into renewable energy that would further reduce the cost of living and greenhouse gas emissions, and other ideas. The Minister refused to respond in any serious way to committee's requests.

Almost a year after the release of the discussion paper, the Minister of Finance released Cabinet's final approach to carbon pricing on July 11, 2018. A summary of the public engagement on the discussion paper was released at the same time, and a federal report on the impact of carbon pricing on the Northwest Territories that had been completed five months earlier was also released to the public. No further comments were invited, and there has been no further public information or engagement since Cabinet's release on July 11, 2018. This government has been dragged to carbon pricing by the federal promise to impose a regime even if we don't create our own regime.

I would like to, Mr. Speaker, move on to the merits of the bill. I have spoken before in this House about Cabinet's approach to carbon pricing, which is what this bill will implement. Individuals and families will get some of the carbon tax back through adjustments to the cost of living allowance. The largest industrial emitters of greenhouse gas emissions will actually get all of the carbon tax back that they pay. It will be individuals, families, and small businesses that will subsidize the GNWT initiatives under the Energy Strategy, not the largest emitters, which are the diamond mines. This hardly seems fair or balanced.

A large part of the carbon tax revenues will also be used to fund GNWT's contribution to the Taltson Hydro Expansion, which I have also spoken against in this House. I have no problem and encourage the use of Taltson power to develop the regional

economy on the south side of the lake, and I am glad to get the support of my friends as I speak, but to build millions of dollars' worth of transmission lines to unconfirmed markets is risky and likely to cost a lot more than original estimates. This is what happened with Muskrat Falls, Site C, Manitoba Hydro's Keeyask dam, and many other projects. Let there be no mistake, Mr. Speaker: Taltson expansion will take money from other needs and opportunities, especially small community energy self-sufficiency.

I would like to turn to some of the problem areas with the bill. There is a precise regime and schedule for the carbon tax on various fuels. There is no separation of diesel fuel use between motive and non-motive use, as was the case in the July 2017 discussion paper. Butane was also not included in that discussion paper for carbon pricing, but now has a carbon tax rate specified in the bill.

While there is some clarity on the carbon tax to be charged and collected, there is no certainty regarding rebates, which are to be prescribed in future regulations at the total discretion of the Minister. The Minister will also have total discretion to prescribe who will be defined as a large emitter, and the Minister will have unfettered authority to determine grants to be given to such large emitters. It seems to me that there should be some bounds on the Minister's discretion in these matters.

Lastly, there is no requirement for any public reporting of revenues raised through the proposed carbon tax, rebates, or grants that the Minister may hand out, or even administrative costs associated with the implementation of the carbon tax. Given the concerns that the public and Regular MLAs have raised about a carbon tax, its impact on the cost of living, and how it may or may not contribute to greenhouse gas reductions, it is rather astounding that there is so little accountability and transparency around the revenues to be raised, their use, and impacts. I have consistently raised the need for an integrated approach to monitoring and public reporting of energy self-sufficiency, climate change, greenhouse gas reductions, carbon pricing, and the impacts on the cost of living, and this bill does not address that.

I still believe that carbon pricing is an essential tool in fighting climate change. However, the Minister has clearly been dragged to this measure and has shown very little interest in working with Regular MLAs or the public in exploring different options or scenarios to develop the best approach for the Northwest Territories and our residents with regard to a carbon tax. In my view, Cabinet's approach is unfair, and with the unfettered ministerial authority over grants to large emitters and rebates, an energy strategy focused on a huge mega project, lack of progress on climate change leadership, and

no commitment to integrated climate change monitoring and public reporting, I cannot support the bill as drafted.

I look forward to participating in the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Government Operations to hear what the public and interested stakeholders have to say about a carbon tax in the Northwest Territories, whether they think that this is a fair approach from Cabinet, and whether it will really lead to progress in climate change. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my view on what this bill enables.

First, I want to acknowledge that the views and concerns that people have shared with me I consider very much valid and important, and their opinions are not lost on me. Bear with me as I share with you two perspectives on the carbon tax effectiveness and another that describes what we are doing here in the North.

Let me start with carbon tax. When originally proposed, I agreed that a carbon tax, as a concept, had the potential to be an effective way of achieving the long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, since its introduction by the federal government, the ongoing campaign conducted by its proponents, as well as politicians, including here in the NWT, has allowed it to become so politicized and tainted that it is no longer politically reasonable, and in the meantime, the rising oil prices continue to reduce the carbon tax's socio-economic business case.

While I agree that we need to shift our habits and behaviours, the fact is that, within our current limited technological means, in order to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions enough to meet the Paris Agreement, it would require carbon taxes so high that they are a political non-starter.

I am not the only one who has this view. Many proponents of carbon tax seem to agree with me on this, and many proponents in the North also agree with me that the made-in-the-North version of carbon tax will do little to nothing towards changing Northerners' behaviours, much less meet set targets for carbon emission reduction.

As I have stated in previous Member's statements, current models of carbon taxes are not a serious proposal to curb emissions. Rather, in my view, it is a flailing attempt to alleviate government's conscience with a symbolic gesture toward mitigating the impacts of climate change.

As we see across the country, with many provincial governments now exiting the program, there is a fading interest in carbon tax, and that is not necessarily a bad thing for the environment. Why? Because even without a meaningful carbon tax, fuel prices across the country are reaching all-time highs at the pump. Again, I noted in a previous statement that fuel was at \$1.13 a litre just a few years back, and now it has been as high here in Yellowknife as \$1.50. The federal government has never clarified how the carbon tax would interact with changing oil prices. Yes, low prices made a carbon tax seem somewhat acceptable, but with high oil prices, it makes it seem punishing to the average northern family, already struggling with higher fuel costs.

What can we implement that already has a proven means of effectiveness and can have an immediate impact on reducing greenhouse gases? Well, let's remember that the use of a carbon tax is relatively new and is directed at shifting behaviour. Significant progress has been made in the past by using other tools, in particular, the use of legislation, regulation, and policy rather than behavioural taxes.

For example, mandatory mileage standards for vehicles have resulted in dramatic increases in fuel efficiency, allowing people to drive more energy-efficient vehicles without guzzling more gas. Electricity generation has been mostly decarbonized in Canada, not so much in the Northwest Territories, through government subsidies and/or appropriations. In some jurisdictions, there has been a major shift to natural gas rather than burning oil or coal. In other jurisdictions, there is a significant move toward hydro rather than diesel. Taxing behavioural change seems less important in those regions, especially given that it is industry that is making the commitments to these changes and that they are the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, after all.

Now, the second point is regarding what we are dealing with here in the North. I have and continue to take this position since being elected, and that is that we are faced with many challenges in the North, but at the forefront is the ability to afford living here and doing business here. If we can't find ways to do either at a standard and comfort level that we have come to know and expect, then, frankly, those who can will begin to depart and leave the North so that they can have those standards and comforts met elsewhere.

That said, I believe that individuals are making smarter choices these days with regard to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by implementing efficiencies and taking responsible actions in their day-to-day lives. Many families and homeowners

are replacing windows, reinsulating ceilings and walls, installing pellet stoves and boilers, putting up solar panels, and doing simple things, like changing to LED bulbs and putting timers on lights and outlets. Proof of this is that Arctic Energy Alliance's energy rebate programs are oversubscribed year over year, and that is a good thing. We have noticed that, so has the federal government, and we have increased the Arctic Energy Alliance pot by nearly double over the next four years.

As the technology becomes more practical and affordable in the North, communities will implement better energy systems, just like Colville Lake's solar panel system and the soon-to-be Inuvik wind farm. I also believe that business and industry are making responsible energy efficiency improvements and are also motivated to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, because they, too, believe in being environmentally responsible, but also because it affects their bottom line profits. A good example, again, is the Diavik Wind Farm. I understand that that investment reduced Diavik's fuel consumption by nearly 15 percent.

I also feel that governments are doing good things with regard to meeting their goals for reducing emissions, and collectively, they are one of the highest emitters in the territory and would be exempt from the carbon tax. Both the City of Yellowknife and the GNWT have made significant investments in transferring over to biomass and developing and using district energy and co-energy for heating and powering their own assets and facilities. What's more, the savings and returns on investment from those initiatives are now allowing these respective governments to self-fund these projects rather than further burden taxpayers with increased taxes to pay for these improvements.

In addition, and I touched on this above, long before any carbon tax concepts were being discussed, governments have developed and applied significant laws, regulation, and policy that have been applied to individuals, businesses, and industry over the last decade or so to create less dependence on fossil fuels, and those regulations are starting to have proof-positive effects as well on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Why don't I support a carbon tax? Simple. I have come to realize that a very high carbon tax that would shift people's behaviour is not politically doable in the North, and that the made-in-the-North version is not going to change anyone's behaviour. Therefore, we can no longer hang onto this silver-bullet or magic-wand approach for a call to carbon tax, and therefore I will not be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to the merits of the government's carbon pricing scheme that will be enabled through the passage of Bill 42. Mr. Speaker, I want to set for the record very clearly that I believe in carbon pricing for Canada. I believe in carbon pricing for the world. A mechanism for carbon, either through market measures or through taxation, are good things.

In the December 14, 2018, meetings of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, otherwise known as COP 24, they reported that, as of April of last year, carbon pricing initiatives implemented or scheduled for implementation were expected to cover 20 percent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions. That is representative that things are changing. This is no longer an initiative of fringe political parties or political actors who are passionate about one issue; this is good economic sense. It has been endorsed by leading economists. It has been endorsed by the World Bank. This is not an alien proposal to how the economy works.

In fact, China, which is one of the major stumbling blocks in ensuring a global response to climate change action through economic measures, has signed on. They are building on some seven municipal and provincial cap-and-trade markets within the country to what will become the world's largest carbon market.

Mr. Speaker, here in Canada, British Columbia has had a successful revenue-neutral carbon pricing regime since 2008, and since implementation, they have posted the strongest economic growth in Canada. It is very clear that, in the British Columbia model, they recognize the need to protect economic competitiveness while implementing carbon pricing and the need for effective collaboration by providing incentives for people to invest, for example, in home energy and zero-emission vehicles. The government has also further committed to all of its government operations will be completely carbon-neutral. It is those kind of leadership statements that provincial governments, federal governments, and world governments can take to show that they are committed to protecting and preserving the future of our planet, our environment, and the health of our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has come out in support of carbon pricing. The chamber's view is that it is the only effective way to reduce carbon emissions, but it requires collaboration, again, with stakeholders, with businesses, to ensure that the regulatory burden on businesses in our jurisdictions is lessened, is not further increased with a new scheme, and that the revenues are returned to them in the form of incentives to help them lower their costs.

The Canadian Mining Association supports carbon pricing, which is a key actor for our economy here in the Northwest Territories. Their president has said that carbon tax is the most effective and efficient means of driving emissions reductions and making real progress in the fight against climate change.

Mr. Speaker, I am not opposed to carbon taxing. I don't think that the world is opposed to carbon taxing or carbon pricing. I think that the world has embraced this. Many Members in this House have been encouraging this government to be proactive on this, to not wait until the eleventh hour to put forward a carbon pricing solution that will allow us to meet our national and international obligations. Yet, here we are, in the last year of our term, with something that has become very controversial and something that Members on this side of the House have just spoken against. I think that is because this bill did not go through the same level of collaboration and partnership that we have seen on other pieces of legislation.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations has been working on carbon pricing for quite some time now. I think that my honourable friend, the Member for Frame Lake, put this very clearly. Our efforts to collaborate, to propose new ideas and solutions, have fallen on deaf ears, and I have come to believe that the honourable Minister of Finance would simply prefer this issue to go away. Perhaps the provincial governments who are opposing this in court will be successful, and we can drop it if a few federal government comes into place.

This is not leadership. That belief can be backed up with actions, statements, words, and a lack of action behind the scenes here at the committee level and in the business planning stages, that there isn't clear leadership coming from this government on this very important issue to the economic health and well-being of Northerners and to our goals to preserve and protect our environment and the health of our citizens.

The Auditor General report on climate change revealed a serious lack of leadership on GNWT actions to fight climate change. The standing committee worked collaboratively and provided clear and concise recommendations on how that can improve. None of those recommendations have been fully implemented, including the most important ones around leadership, about giving a very clear message as a whole-of-government approach that is binding on other departments so that there is a very clear sense in the public and within the bureaucracy that this is a top priority and that we need to continue to work on it. I agree that adaptation needs to be our priority, but the global economy is adapting to carbon pricing, and we

need to be a part of that if we are going to protect our businesses and protect our industries.

Mr. Speaker, this bill places the burden of the pricing scheme through a carbon tax onto the pocketbooks of Northerners and small businesses, while carving out extensive breaks for large emitters that are responsible for nearly 50 percent of total emissions. The taxes applied to large industry are largely returned by the rebates, and the funds that are held by government can be accessed by those same emitters in personalized funds, rather than building a globally competitive fund in which all emitters can compete for resources as an incentive to help bring clean growth solutions to their industrial operations.

The vital rebate programs in this bill, which are the crux of any successful pricing regime, are governed solely through regulation, which means that this House will lack the necessary oversight tools to effect these programs and cement total control in the hands of the Minister. While this would not be such a major issue for me, the current Minister, again, has not demonstrated a willingness to collaborate with Regular Members and members of the public and members of industry on building a regime that works for everyone.

This House cannot speak for future governments and the Ministers of those governments, but I think that we must ensure that it is the House and its Members who decide these issues, such as the rebates and other important issues of climate change public policy and that those powers and discretion are not solely in the hands of the Minister and government bureaucracy. The people need to be able to speak to their representatives on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that we need to do a better job of building a scheme that works. I have implored the government to look at other options. Again, I refer to the Chinese model where they have moved to a cap-and-trade system. We didn't even consider that. At the time, the provinces of Ontario and Quebec had a very successful cap-and-trade program in partnership with California. There are no reasons we couldn't have collaborated with Yukon and Nunavut to build a northern carbon market and to keep the burden on industry and off of everyday Northerners and to find more competitive ways to incentivize clean growth solutions to business.

The Taltson expansion is something I do, in fact, support. I think it is a key component of building the economy of the North. Again, it is very far off. For this government to pin 33 percent of its reductions on something that is a policy proposal that has pennies for the big picture invested in it currently, we cannot afford to pin all of our hopes on that. We

need to have a better mechanism. The mechanism that is being proposed today, again, it puts the burden onto the pocketbooks of Northerners in such a way that I cannot support.

I hope that we are able to improve the bill if it does go forward. At this time, I encourage all honourable Members of this House to carefully consider what is being proposed, the lack of collaboration, the lack of consultation. Whether or not the proposed federal backstop that Yukon and Nunavut are both agreeing to implement in their jurisdictions, now that we know the details of that, is a more generous rebate for individuals, and individual Northerners will receive more from the federal backstop than they will from this carbon-pricing scheme.

I think we must carefully consider if this is the direction we want to go, if this is the direction we want to bind future governments for, or if we should leave the administrative burden of the new tax in the hands of the federal government that this Minister has said is imposing this tax on the people of the North. Let them impose it, then. Let them give a more generous rebate. Let's work with our partners to build a more robust carbon-pricing system that targets the people who are actually causing the emissions and that ensures we can keep the cost of living as low as possible in the Northwest Territories.

It is possible to get carbon pricing right, but this bill gets it wrong. I encourage Members to vote against it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Sahtu.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the principle of the Bill 42, we have been placed in our seats here by the members of our respective ridings and the community as a whole in subjects as sensitive as this one to increase a revenue stream to make efforts in reducing our gas emissions.

As my colleague from the Kam Lake riding mentioned, this is really a global community one to address the target set in the Paris Accord. I keep an open mind that I will look forward to engaging the community consultation process after the second reading of this bill to give the people a chance to voice their concerns to the bill aside from our own. Keeping an open mind, I will not take that privilege away from the people who put me in this position in the Sahtu, for example.

I have mentioned in previous discussions and presentations: take the average young or old or middle-aged trapper downtown Colville Lake. How would they be impacted to this additional tax, putting the gas in their snow machine to go harvest

income in fur-bearing animals? I am willing to give that individual a chance to speak to the bill, give the proper documentation to the communities, let them, in collaboration with this government, make a decision that we think is fair to everyone in creating revenues for offsetting cost reductions with the consumption of, say, home diesel fuel, for example, or non-automotive in purchasing energy-efficient appliances.

I think everybody would agree: we live in a high-cost part of Canada. We have a formula that is set, a fixed income. We are trying to broaden our benefits based on a set income. We have said all along in the Premier's sessional statements, a number of times, 32 percent of the revenues is contributed by industry. We have to be mindful of industry's presence here. I was very encouraged to hear the industry thinking and stating this is a good tax in the reducing of gas emissions into our atmosphere.

It really is a pan-territorial initiative. I am willing to support going on the road with this bill and giving the people the proper information so they can make informed decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I cannot support anything that would increase the cost of living for the people of the small communities. The people I represent are natural people who go out and they hunt. That is how they supplement their income. As everyone knows, we have very low incomes in the small communities. When an elder asks a young hunter to go hunting for them, their responsibility is to pay for the gas. Then the young person does all the work, goes out on the land. The further away the caribou is moving, the more costly it gets for the gas for the young person to go hunting.

Even if there is a tax rebate attached to the gas, or just a tax rebate inside the Income Tax Act, it is still going to cost money at the time the person needs to go hunting. It is not going to be that, sometime after income tax season, the individuals get a rebate and that becomes something that can be then turned into the gas they had already paid extra for to go hunting.

For me, I am thinking about: what would my community want? Tomorrow, when they pour gas into their vehicle, gas into their machines, snowmobiles, and whatnot, at that point, do they want to pay extra because they might get a rebate or they will get a rebate sometime during the income tax season? When you are hungry now, you can't wait for income tax season to buy the food that you need.

What they need to do is to not pay the extra as a tax on the gasoline. The cost of gasoline is high enough. Sometimes, the elders have just enough money to buy just enough gas to be able to get somebody to hunt for them. The hunters do it because they, too, can hunt for themselves at the same time at the expense of the elders. The elders do it because it is a lot more efficient for them to have caribou meat, moose meat, whatever it is that they are hunting for, muskox. It could be a variety of things.

The communities I represent, all four communities, rely on caribou. The fact that there is a reduction in the numbers with the caribou and the caribou seemed to either have disappeared or moved further east, a lot of the people and the elders say, "A lot of the caribou have moved east or have joined other herds." It has become more difficult for them to access caribou.

Then on top of that, to tell them that they will have to pay extra at the pumps. I am saying: it doesn't matter to them whether they get a rebate sometime in the future. That will go to something else. That rebate will be consumed by something else.

Also, the premise that the major reduction of greenhouse gas is going to be based on the Taltson project, I spoke against an expansion of Taltson here. Although I will most likely vote in favour of money that is going to be handed out to the territorial government from the federal government to consult with the people who are impacted by Taltson, I still think there is a lot to be settled there. I mean, the Taltson dam wiped out a whole community. It wiped out two communities, actually. Very little was said about a place called Rat River, which had a few people who generally had family in Rocher River, the other community that was completely wiped out. You hear about, the elders talk about, there were so many muskrat on the shores that it looks like there is a hill sitting there, and I think an elder told me the other day that there were so many muskrats swimming down Taltson river that he thought it was a raft. That was wiped out completely.

It happened a couple of years ago, too, by the release of water during wintertime, when you release water in the wintertime. Although NCPC said there was no release of water, I do not think, naturally, they flood the river. I do not think mother nature would kill all of its animals on a river by itself. I think that is man who has done that, and I think that has to be settled, too. If we are going to put together a strategy that bases itself on Taltson river expansion and that is how we are going to reduce our greenhouse gases and that is our contribution, then we should settle with the people from Rocher River. We should settle with the people who are wiped out, forced to relocate, lost their way of living,

became a lost society. I think that has to happen, but the bottom line is today.

For today, the most important thing is the increased cost of gas, and, for today, to put more cost on the elders, that is what will happen. It does not matter what it looks like. It does not matter what the Income Tax Act is going to say at the end, when we make those adjustments. It's the cost today that's important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think any of us here would like to see a carbon tax implemented in our territory as we have the highest cost of living in this country, alone. Mr. Speaker, I know that some of the Members are not supporting this. Like the Member from the Sahtu, I would like to see this proceed. This initiative, the federal government actually, I believe, sees that the territory has a small footprint on the carbon in our country, and they are willing to work with us. What is being presented is a far better deal than what will actually be imposed on us if we do not support this. The bottom line is that what is the best deal for my riding is what I will support, and this by far will be less impact on the cost of living in my riding. My constituents are paying in the neighbourhood of \$1.92 per litre. We cannot afford it. Even 5 cents makes a big difference, and that is what we are talking about with the cost-of-living offset, and I think that that would be less impact on the residents in the Mackenzie Delta and for all people of the Northwest Territories. So we will let this proceed, and we'll get all of the information that is actually to this and make the right decision when it comes to third reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard everybody here talk about it, and I appreciate that the Government of the Northwest Territories has reached out to the federal government to work on a deal for heating fuel so that it's not going to have an impact, but we are still going to have an impact on it because we are going to have to pay for the transportation costs here. I am not going to reiterate everything, but it's the cost of living. I have listened to my communities, and I have heard the concerns about gas. It is an issue. We do not have to go on a road trip to hear it. We have heard it in the House here. We have heard it in Members' statements. We have heard it. Ministers have heard it through our correspondence with them. It's going to be an impact on cost of living, so, right now, the way we have it right now, I cannot support this. It's about the small communities. It's about the people there. It's about

the people who we are supposed to be representing, and so, right now, I cannot support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Nunakput.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleagues from the Mackenzie Delta and the Sahtu, my region, we are very rich in natural gas resources, and we have yet to develop that. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that, in the future of the territory, the Inuvialuit will come to that. The cost of living is the highest in my region and territory, also the cost of transportation, and to see aviation fuel being exempt from things like that as well as anything to bring down the cost of living, Mr. Speaker -- consultation is very important, especially with Indigenous groups. When we look at the number of bills, there is a huge number of bills that are going through this legislature and this Assembly. I think what we need to keep in mind is we need to continue with growing capacity within this legislature to bring those forward so that our Members are informed and we are able to make educated decisions. Sometimes I sit here and I see some of the decisions that we make on both sides. Sometimes, from where I sit, they seem uninformed, but maybe there is something that I am missing, as well. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see this go forward, and I would like to encourage the Government of the Northwest Territories to involve the Inuvialuit and all of the other Indigenous groups across the territory, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Deh Cho.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the principle of the bill and mainly because here in the Northwest Territories we live in a vast and remote part of Canada, and, of course, the cost of living is very high. Recently in the media, it was brought to the public's attention that, our income support, the cost of income support is increasing, with more of our people depending on supplements from this government to put food on our table. So how could we rationalize adding more of a burden on the average people in the average communities the North? It just boggles me. So, for those reasons, I will not support it. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Minister of Finance.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is opposed to any kind of tax, but this is one that the federal government, in their infinite wisdom, had decided that they were going to implement, regardless. So our challenge was to try to mitigate the impact that it was going to have on people across the Northwest Territories.

Our folks at the department went across the Northwest Territories. They listened to people. They understood that a tax was coming. They did not like it. Everybody is opposed to a new tax. That is why this government has in our four years done very little as far as raising taxes in the Northwest Territories. People have said that they want the least impact on themselves as possible. Now, I am sure Members opposite have heard those concerns, and it's always good to stand up and say, "Well, I am opposed to a new tax." Well, I am opposed to a tax, as well. The federal government is going to implement it. There have been a couple of challenges. We will have to wait to see. What this does, this gives us the tools we have to try to work to mitigate.

I have provided some information to Members opposite, some briefings that we have had on the cost to people in the Northwest Territories had we used the federal backstop. The federal backstop: \$922.59 cost on the average family; the NWT approach the carbon pricing: \$356.92; that is a \$753 difference, so you want to tell the people of the Northwest Territories that, "Yes, we like the federal backstop so much. It is going to cost you \$700 more a year, but we are going to go with that." Is that what you are telling them? Or as a couple of Members so wisely said, "Why don't you take it on the road. Let them tell you that themselves and see what they say."

We claim to hear the voice of the people in the Northwest Territories sometimes, and there are times we can't over the sound of our own voices, so let's not decide what is best for them. Let's give them an opportunity to decide for themselves. I think we worked very closely. We showed a lot of leadership on this. We have had other jurisdictions actually using or wanting to use our approach because they think it is one that is a little more fair to them. Aviation fuel. We worked with the federal government. They exempted that. Great. Heating fuels, diesel, propane, natural gas. Our approach is zero. Their approach is \$435.95. I mean, I can understand the Members' concerns, of course. I mean, I have heard a lot of concerns. We want to do our bit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which is all fine. I think that was the overall goal of the Pan-Canadian Framework and the Paris Agreement, but our challenge here in the Northwest Territories is how we are going to mitigate the impact that it is going to have on our folks here.

I have given you some numbers. Part of what we are criticized for sometimes is our lack of communication. I have to agree there. I mean, we should have communicated a lot of this information better to the folks out there. Then they can get hold of you and say, "Hey, my MLA is not too bad. I don't like a tax, but if this is going to mitigate."

We don't know what is going to happen on July 1<sup>st</sup>. As I said before, there are a couple of challenges that are being taken out there, but I don't want to play catch up. I want to make sure that we are prepared so, when it comes, our people are not feeling it, and using the federal backstop is not good for our people. Not at all. Not at all.

I have given you the numbers, and again, I think there should be an opportunity for people out there to tell you how they feel about this, recognizing the fact that the federal government again in their infinite wisdom plan to implement this regardless, and what we are trying to do for the people of the Northwest Territories is mitigate the impact. Otherwise, it would cost them a lot more. We don't like taxes, but we are trying to do what is best for our people, and I believe, Mr. Speaker, a discussion like this, I think, requires a recorded vote.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

#### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. There has been a request for a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. All those opposed, please stand.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote: 10 in favour; 8 opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 42 has had a second reading and is now referred to a standing committee. Second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

#### BILL 43:

#### AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 43, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the second time. This bill amends the Income Tax Act to make changes to non-refundable tax claimed by multi-jurisdictional individual tax filers, including changes that restrict the Northwest Territories' pension credit to the Northwest Territories' residents, and changes that allow co-pension and dividend credits to be claimed by Northwest Territories residents with business income earned outside the territories. This bill also amends the Income Tax Act to provide a cost of living offset as a mechanism for recurring carbon tax revenue to Northwest Territories' residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The motion is order. To the principle of the bill. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Nice try. Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I am not going to be nearly as long on this one. I am not going to oppose this bill. It does serve a number of public purposes, including allowing for pension credits to be earned by residents and so on, so and it is simply enabling legislation in terms of allowing for a cost of living credit to be used. I don't really have anything to oppose on this bill. I wish that there were some stronger public reporting provisions tied back to how this is going to be used to report on rebates that are tied to the carbon tax, but I don't have any difficulty with this bill. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 43 has had a second reading and is now referred to standing committee. Second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 26, Statistics Act; Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act; Committee Report 12-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Northwest Territories Child and Family Services; Committee Report 13-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 31: Northwest Territories 911 Act; Minister's Statement 131-18(3), Sessional Statement 44; Minister's Statement 151-18(3), New Federal Infrastructure Agreement; Minister's Statement 158-18(3), Developments in Early Childhood Programs and Services; and Tabled Document 237-18(3), Independent Commission to

Review Members' Compensation and Benefits 2018 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits Report, August 2018; 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 will now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee would like to consider Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates 2019-2020, with the Department of Legislative Assembly. Also, Committee Report 13-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act, and Bill 26, Statistics Act, and Bill 31, 911 Act. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. We will consider the documents and bills after a recess. Thank you.

---RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimate 2019-2020, looking at the Legislative Assembly, which begins on page 1 of the document. I will turn to the Speaker for opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Masi, Mr. Chair. As you know, we have entered the final year of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly, and this is the last operations budget from my office prior to the general election and the selection of a new Speaker in the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly. It has been a distinct honour and privilege to serve as your Speaker, and I hope that I have met your expectations in terms of presiding over your debates in a fair and objective manner.

The Legislative Assembly is seeking an operations expenditures appropriation of \$22,443,000. This represents an increase of \$1,653,000, or a 7.9 percent increase from the 2018-2019 Main Estimates.

Mr. Chair, while this is a significant increase, this additional funding is needed every four years in order to conduct the territorial general election 2019 and for preparing and moving on to the next Assembly.

During this time, your Legislative Assembly has worked to improve communications to reach all peoples of the Northwest Territories. We have taken steps to bring our proceedings, and also the work of committees, to all of the regions of the Northwest Territories in all of our official languages. I will have more to say on that matter shortly, Mr. Chair.

My office has also been working to educate and raise awareness of our system of government and the profile of the Legislative Assembly through the development of two educational videos, enhancement of our annual report, the Mace Outreach Program, youth parliament, and improvements to our website, particularly with respect to committee operations.

This will include providing the funding needed by Elections NWT to undertake the next territorial general election. I would note that the funding being requested by Elections NWT for the 2019 general election is the same level of funding that was approved for the last general election held in 2015. My thanks to the Chief Electoral Officer for the proactive measures that she is undertaking to improve voter engagement and control costs through innovation.

Mr. Chair, we have also begun the important work to increase the representation of women in the Legislative Assembly. A special committee has been struck to examine and provide recommendations on how to achieve this in the years to come. Funding remains in the 2019-2020 budget to complete this important work, and I look forward to tangible results stemming from the committee's work and recommendations in the next election.

During the last sitting, the House took the important step of enacting the Ombud Act. This budget includes funding for the establishment of this office. It is my hope that you will appoint the Northwest Territories' first ombud during this sitting and that the full act will be ready for implementation by the fall of 2019.

Colleagues, this summer, in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I will host a first-of-its-kind conference in Canada. I have invited Indigenous Members of Parliament from all of Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial legislatures, as well as some from other Commonwealth countries and the United States, to meet in Yellowknife this summer on and around National Aboriginal Day 2019. The purpose of this conference will be to explore the unique challenges that Indigenous Members of Parliament face when working in what are, essentially, colonial institutions.

The conference will explore the tensions that Indigenous Members often experience when attempting to govern in an adversarial environment, compared to the more consensus-based style of system that they are more accustomed to. It will also explore the compatibility of Indigenous representation in our Parliaments with the inherent right to self-government and whether and how we should change our public institutions to be more reflective of Indigenous culture and traditions. I invite all Members to join me in Yellowknife for this exciting conference this summer, around June 2019. We have an excellent line-up of panellists and keynote speakers, and the reception from around Canada and the world has been outstanding so far.

Colleagues, earlier this year the languages commissioner submitted a report to my office with thoughtful and important recommendations to improve the services that we provide to Members and the public in all of the NWT's official languages. It should be no secret to Members that this is an issue that I am passionate about. Of all the public policy challenges that we face as elected Members, there are few that are as urgent, and as important, as the preservation of our languages. Future generations will judge us by the actions that we take, or fail to take, to save these languages and their link to our cultures. We have a closing window of opportunity to act, colleagues. Once our languages disappear, they are gone forever.

The time has come for bold action from all corners of government and society to turn the tide and change the path of history. The budget before you for adoption today includes a tripling of the Assembly's languages budget to not only implement the recommendations of the languages commissioner, but to go much, much further. This summer, the Assembly will host a language symposium to develop a common set of parliamentary terms in all of our languages. I am fluent in my language, the Tlicho language, yet I still rely heavily on such English terms as "bill," "point of order," or "prorogation." As leaders in this House, we need to set the example for the rest of the territory in terms of language use. We can talk and talk about language revitalization, but until we start to walk that talk, nothing will change the current path we are on. A road or a hospital that does not get built next year can still be built the following year; not so much for our languages. When they are gone, they are gone for good.

I want no part of that legacy. The increase in languages funding this year is not the end. It is my hope and my commitment that, in the years ahead, the Legislative Assembly will have a fully functioning languages bureau to not only support the use of all languages in the written and spoken records of this Assembly, but to live up to the spirit

and vision of the Official Languages Act put in place by our predecessors in this House. Our languages should not be "nice to haves." We should not be satisfied with throwing a token word or two of our Indigenous languages into a committee report or a tabled document. The time has come to stop paying lip service to the preservation of our languages and start investing the resources needed to stave off their extinction. I have made it my passion and my mission to speak predominantly in my language in this place, in this House, and I encourage other Members who are fluent in their languages to do the same. They are only equal in status to French and English if we treat them that way.

Colleagues, in closing, I feel obligated to correct the public record with respect to MLA compensation. A recent CBC news article suggested that Members of this House are planning to vote themselves a 20 percent pay increase in the upcoming fiscal year. This is blatantly false. In an age when the term "fake news" has become part of our common vocabulary, it is unfortunate and irresponsible that our public broadcaster has been unable to resist the temptation of "gotcha" journalism and the needless sensationalism. Colleagues, Members of this Legislative Assembly have not voted themselves a pay increase in 20 years, despite recommendations to do so from independent compensation review committees over the years. The 2019-2020 budget continues to hold this line by budgeting no more than a cost-of-living increase, as provided for in the legislation. The increase in the Members' compensation budget for 2019-2020 are related to the transition costs that always come in an election year and are consistent with the recommendations of this and previous years' independent commissions.

Mr. Chair, I will conclude by thanking all Members, my colleagues on the board of management, and the Assembly staff for their contributions and their effort in working towards the efficient operations and delivery of quality services for the Legislative Assembly. This concludes my opening remarks. I am pleased to respond to any questions that Members may have. Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that you have witnesses you wish to bring into the Chamber, so I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the House. Mr. Speaker, you may take a seat at the witness table. Mr. Speaker, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Masi, Mr. Chair. I have with me to my right, Tim Mercer, clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and to my left, Darrin Ouellette, director of Corporate Services. He is back again. The last time, we said it was the last presentation, but he decided to stay with us for

another year, so we are thankful of that. Masi, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I remember wishing him farewell, and here he is again. Welcome back to the witnesses. The total department can be found on page 5 of the document, but, as always, we will consider the activities first. There are five activities under Legislative Assembly. The first is expenditures on behalf of Members, and this is found on page 9. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the expenditure category on page 9, there is an increase of \$696,000 in the area of compensation and benefits, and I am wondering if the Speaker or his staff can provide a breakdown of how that money is allocated. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Masi, Mr. Chair. Part of the difference is we started paying to Members' pension. For the last 20 years, we haven't been paying to Members' pension, similar to across Canada. Most or all legislatures pay into Members' pension. We have been fortunate with a great economy over the years, but now, just since last year, we started contributing towards that, so that is part of that cost. Also, another cost is the transitional allowance for Members. Every election, we allocate upwards of six individuals who could be either retiring or losing their seats, so we have to subsidize for that. As you know, 2015, we had a turnover of 11 new Members, so we fell behind on our funding allocation at that time. We want to be prepared for that, so those are just some of the differences. However, Mr. Chair, I will allow our director of corporate services maybe to elaborate more and provide more detailed information. Masi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Ouellette.

**MR. OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, as Mr. Speaker referred to, transitional costs, in that are the two allowances, the transitional allowance and the retaining allowance. We make assumptions that, during a transition to the next Assembly, there could be up to six Members who would not be returning for various reasons. That is \$432,000 that has been budgeted in that area. There was also the cost-of-living adjustment, for a total of \$107,000 in that particular category. Then, there are also the allowances that have now become taxable. We have reallocated that budget into the compensation and benefits area, and that was for \$157,000.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you for the information. I want to just ask a further explanation for the taxable benefit. Could the Speaker or his staff provide a little more information about the taxable allowance and its current status? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Ouellette.

**MR. OUELLETTE:** Currently, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> with the federal Income Tax Act, the previous non-taxable allowances that Members received, in the range of \$7,600 per year, now became taxable on January 1<sup>st</sup>, so that is the status of it. They are taxed now, and Members receive the gross tax on a bi-weekly basis, and, at the end of the year, they will get a T4A to provide taxes there. At the time when we drafted the main estimates, the thinking was that these would be taken from payroll source, and so the budget was reallocated to this area. That thinking has since changed, and so it will be a return back to the accounts payable, the expenditures category, for allowances.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you for that explanation. The other thing I wanted to ask is: the finance director already mentioned that, in 2015, there were 11 changes in the House. The budgeting has been for six Members, so what is the premise of the six Members, and what happens if it does turn out to be another large turnover, in terms of funding? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Mercer.

**MR. MERCER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we are budgeting in a transition year, we have to make assumptions about how many Members will not be returning, and our assumptions have consistently been a turnover of about a third of Members in any given election. We always hope it is going to be less than that, but that is what we budget for. The transition allowance payments that we budget for assume that two first-term Members will not be returning, that two two-term Members will not be returning, and that two three-term Members or two Ministers will not be returning. So, if the turnover tends to be more than six Members or if it is six Members who have long service, the budgeted amount will not be enough and we will need to find the funding, as we did in 2015, from other sources or through supplementary appropriation. If the turnover is less than six or if all that turnover occurs for Members who have served only four years, then that amount will be underspent. It is essentially a set of assumptions we have to work on, and we need to wait until the election date to see how it plays out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you to the witnesses for their responses. Nothing further.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Further to this activity? Seeing none, I will call the page. Legislative Assembly, expenditures on behalf of Members, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$9,404,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Please turn to the next activity on page 11, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call this activity. Legislative Assembly, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, operations expenditures summary, activity total, \$1,655,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, committee. Please turn to the next activity, Office of the Clerk. Comments or questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. There is a significant increase from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 in research, information and library services. Can one of our guests here explain that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Ouellette.

**MR. OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What is being proposed for library services for the upcoming year is a one-time initiative for a digitization system. This is a move to modernize the way that the library does business in terms of digitizing all of their information, being able to connect with other agencies and networks. The estimated cost for that is \$100,000, and there is an additional \$21,000 or \$22,000 for a summer student to assist with that digitization work during the summer period.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I know that, over at the archives, there are actually copies of the minutes for the Northwest Territories Council going back to 1921, and they are the only record of those minutes anywhere in the world, as I understand it. Do you know if that sort of information is part of this project? There are research requests, and I have had reason to go back to the 1950s recently on this, but is that going to be part of this project? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Ouellette.

**MR. OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can't confirm that. In talking with the librarian, I know that they are meeting with various groups to flesh out a plan in terms of how they are going to approach digitization, but I know that there are several groups that are involved with that.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I might go and have a chat with some folks in the library as well, because they provide great service to us, and it would be great to have that sort of archival information available online for research purposes as well. I want to thank our witnesses. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Anything further? Seeing nothing, I will call the activity. Legislative Assembly, Office of the Clerk, operations expenditures summary, total activity, \$8,300,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Please turn to the next activity, Office of the Speaker. The summary is on page 18. Comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the activity. Legislative Assembly, Office of the Speaker, operations expenditures summary, \$531,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Please turn to statutory offices on page 21. Comments or questions? Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In his opening remarks, the Speaker said that the budget for languages was going to be tripled. I am not sure if that is this page where the Language Commissioner is, or where it is going to be, but maybe he could point to that, please? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Masi, Mr. Chair. The funding allocation is not geared towards the Language Commissioner's budget, but it is overall to offset how we can enhance language development in the Legislative Assembly with regard to reporting and promoting more language. It is a generic contribution to the Legislative Assembly and would capture the Language Commissioner's area of recommendations, so we can work towards that as well. If I may, maybe Mr. Mercer will have

more detailed information pertaining to this, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Mercer.

**MR. MERCER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to follow up on what the Speaker said, the tripling of the Assembly's languages budget would not be found under this activity; it would be found under a number of line items under Office of the Clerk. For example, the Clerk's Office item under program detail has a substantial increase of about \$100,000. That would account for some of it. The remainder would be in the committee's budget. That increase is spread out over a number of items within the activity of Office of the Clerk on page 14, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I noticed here that the budgets for a couple of the statutory officers have actually decreased. For the Information and Privacy Commissioner, there is \$28,000 less for 2019-2020, and for the Languages Commissioner, I am not going to attempt to do the math in my head; \$38,000, my friend tells me. Can someone explain to me why these reductions are being made? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Masi, Mr. Chair. It is part of shared services that we have assistants to these officers. As you know, we have a few of them, and we do have a clerk or receptionist who assists them. There has been a reallocation of that position. We did talk about that during our deliberation of how we can deal with those positions, so I will get Mr. Ouellette to explain more in detail. Masi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Ouellette.

**MR. OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, so the planning going forward was looking at the store-front location for the statutory officers at the Lang 1 building. Currently, on one side of that, there are three statutory officers that are being supported by 1.5 staff, and the Commissioner is also bringing on a full-time assistant commissioner.

With the implementation of the Ombud's office, the plan is to increase the half-time position to a full-time position, and then we reallocated some of those budgets to the Ombud budget, and that took it out of the Language Commissioner's budget and also took a portion of the office managers' salaries out of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's budget. That is why the reductions would be seen there, but there is no impact to their operational expenses.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the explanation. Just to be crystal clear here, there is no change in the funding that is provided to the Information and Privacy Commissioner or the Language Commissioner. There is no reduction in their ability to carry out the programs and services that they do, other than the fact that the resources are being reduced to provide for a shared support person in the office. Is that correct? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, yes, those are areas that we have discussed how we can manage, and that is correct, what the Member has alluded to.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nothing further from Mr. O'Reilly. Seeing nothing further, I will call this page. Legislative Assembly, statutory offices, operations expenditures summary, total, \$2,553,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. There is an information item on the last page. Rather, that was part of that last item, so let's return to the departmental summary on page 5. Any final comments or questions? Seeing none, I will call the total. Legislative Assembly, total department, \$22,443,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of the Legislative Assembly?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this

concludes our consideration of Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates 2019-2020?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 90-18(3):  
CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 322-18(3): MAIN ESTIMATES 2019-2020,  
CARRIED

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates 2019-2020, now be concluded and that Tabled Document 322-18(3) be reported as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Committee, we have agreed to next consider Committee Report 13-18(3), Report on the Review of Bill 31, the NWT 911 Act. I will go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations for any opening comments about the report. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On February 26, 2019, the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its report on the review of Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act. The committee report included three recommendations, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss the report and the recommendations in Committee of the Whole later today. Members of the committee may have individual comments. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. I will open the floor to any general comments on the report. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do have just a few brief comments that I would like to make. I want to thank the committee for letting me sit in on a lot of the meetings that they had regarding the report. I am quite pleased with the recommendations that came out of the report.

911 is something that was being worked on when I was on city council back in 1997 to 2006. This was not in our mandate, and I do appreciate the work of a couple of Ministers to bring this forward. I want to commend them for their hard work in getting this bill to us and that this is finally going to happen in the

life of this Assembly. This is very important for the people of the Northwest Territories in terms of public safety, so again, I want to thank my colleagues for their hard work on this.

I still think that there is a lot of work to be done, though, in terms of implementation and working very closely with our community governments, particularly here in Yellowknife, where the centre is going to be located, in terms of how calls are handled and so on. I guess I would take a little bit of credit for the idea of having some public reporting around 911, in terms of the revenues, the number of calls, and the use of languages and so on. I think those are going to be important metrics as we move forward with the implementation.

I want to recognize the work of my Cabinet colleagues in moving this forward and the work of committee in improving the bill. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Me, too. I just wanted to acknowledge the efforts from all sides, including the Cabinet Ministers who were involved with advancing this forward. I think that we all realize the real need for such a system to be set in place here in the Northwest Territories, basically because of the need for more public safety and, of course, emergency situations. Therefore, it is timely that we move forward on this.

I know that there had been efforts from the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, as far as previous Assemblies that had wished that such a system would be in place. Now we have seen the advancement of cellular technology in small and remote communities. We have seen the fibre optic line that has been laid down from the southern parts of the NWT right up to Inuvik. There are more hopes and expectations that such a critical, life-saving service could be provided.

There are ongoing challenges. One of them is the presumption that such a service would be mainly in English, but as we all know, we have multiple official languages that we need to uphold. The challenge is to make a service that could be available to everybody in the Northwest Territories. However, there are, of course, some technical challenges in terms of how we are supposed to address that. For the most part, I am very happy and pleased that we have made tremendous progress on making 911 a reality in the near future. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Anything further to the report? Seeing none, I will just explain to everyone what happens with

these reports. There are various recommendations made to the department in the reports, and those are generally moved as motions. If there are any recommendations which anyone would like to move as motions, I will go to that person now. Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 91-18(3):  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF  
BILL 31: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 911 ACT –  
EXPANDED CELLULAR COVERAGE, CARRIED

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs work with the Department of Finance to develop a strategic approach designed to secure support and funding to expand cellular coverage in the Northwest Territories as part of a national cellular network; and further, that this strategic approach identify current cellular coverage, along with funding needs and goals for future cellular coverage, and timelines associated with system improvements; and furthermore, that this strategic approach consider appropriate ways to involve the Government of Canada, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, or CRTC, and large cellular service providers, such as TELUS and Bell Canada, in any system improvement efforts. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The committee has read its report into the record, so I won't go into the full details, but sufficient to say, a number of concerns raised by the public in our consultations and from Members representing their constituencies were very clear that the bill alone could not address many of the issues that will be required for 911 coverage to be a success in the program.

The committee feels very strongly that this is a life-saving program that is going to make a big difference in the lives of Northerners, but to ensure that, this motion, in particular, addresses the need for expanded cellular coverage, especially in the smaller communities and in regions where there are large stretches of road without adequate coverage. The concern is that, if there is an accident there, it won't matter if you have 911 or not if you can't get a cell signal on your phone.

It is imperative that we improve this communications infrastructure in the Northwest Territories. We can't do it alone, and this motion contemplates how the government can take concrete actions to deliver more extensive cellular service in the Northwest Territories and adequately

support the life-saving goals of the 911 program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 92-18(3):  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF  
BILL 31: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 911 ACT –  
MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, CARRIED

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs develop a detailed municipal implementation plan that sets out the information and supports needed by each local authority to ensure successful implementation of NWT-wide 911 service; and further, that this implementation plan identify a realistic time frame for discussion with local authorities and that the department be prepared to adjust the go-live date to a later date, if necessary, to accommodate the consultation needs of local authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We spoke to many municipalities around their concerns with the implementation of 911 and how best the government can support the implementation in a way that everyone can meaningfully participate and have adequate resources. To capture that, the committee has made this recommendation to ensure that municipalities are ready and prepared for the role of 911, that it doesn't impact their existing provision of emergency services, and that everyone moves to a smooth transition after the 911 service goes live.

This motion contemplates it being the responsibility of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to develop this implementation plan in meaningful consultation with all of our communities where 911 service will be implemented. So we are hoping that this motion is carried and that this plan comes into place before the implementation of 911. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We really appreciate the work that was done by committee on the reports in bringing these three motions forward as well as the discussion that we had in committee. We know this is very important. We have to make sure that all of our communities and our municipals are ready and prepared when we do this implementation. As this is a recommendation to Cabinet, I will be abstaining from the vote, as the previous motion. However, I just want to let committee know and Members and the general public that Cabinet is very supportive in the rollout of the 911 services. Being the first year that we are going to be rolling this out and we want to do it right, we will be monitoring and evaluating the program, and we will committing to keeping committee apprised of the rollout of 911. I do appreciate all of the work that committee has done on the report and, as we go further into the bill later on today, the amendments that were made, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Question has been called. All Those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 93-18(3):  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF  
BILL 31: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 911 ACT –  
RESPONSE WITHIN 120 DAYS, CARRIED

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provides a response to the recommendations contained in this report within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Seeing nothing further from committee, does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 13-

18(3), Report on the Review of Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. That concludes our consideration of the report. We have agreed to next consider Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act. I will ask the Minister responsible for the bill to introduce it. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to introduce Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act. The purpose of the Northwest Territories 911 Act is to create a Northwest Territories 911 service for the reporting of emergencies through a public safety answering point or call centre.

Bill 31 requires communities, communications providers, and emergency service providers to participate in the establishment and operation of the 911 system, which is necessary for its effective operation throughout the Northwest Territories.

Bill 31 authorizes development and administration of policies, standards, and guidelines that are necessary to operationalize the system, deter inappropriate use of the 911 system, and authorize the call centre to perform additional work on behalf of community governments, such as direct dispatch for their emergency first responders. A significant aspect of Bill 31 is the setting of a cost-recovery fee. As Members of this House are aware, the goal of the 911 system is to ensure it operates on a full cost-recovery basis. The fee will apply to all communication devices used in the Northwest Territories which connect to 911, including landlines, wireless devices, and Voice Over Internet Protocol connections.

Much work is under way to implement 911 throughout the Northwest Territories, including preparations for a 911 call centre; hiring and training of qualified staff; working with community governments to improve civic addressing; creating an inventory of available emergency services; implementing a public awareness campaign; system testing; and developing an effective means to evaluate our progress.

Municipal and Community Affairs has worked with the legislation division of the Department of Justice on Bill 31 and will continue working with them on the drafting of the regulations required to set the cost recovery fee. Municipal and Community Affairs intends to bring the act and regulations into force prior to the go-live date for the 911 system. The projected go-live date remains June 2019.

That concludes my opening remarks, and I would be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have regarding Bill 31. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. At this point, we are going to call a brief recess so we can distribute the bill to Members, so we will reconvene in about five minutes. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will call committee back to order. I will now turn to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations, the committee that considered the bill, for opening comments. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just trying to find my paperwork here. The Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to report on its review of Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act.

The committee read their substantive report into the House on February 26, 2019, giving details on our consultation on Bill 31. To commence its review of Bill 31, the Standing Committee on Government Operations sent letters inviting input from an extensive list of stakeholders, including all municipal and Indigenous governments in the Northwest Territories and a number of non-governmental organizations.

The committee held four public hearings on Bill 31 in Fort Smith, Inuvik, Fort McPherson, and Yellowknife. As well, the committee received two written submissions on the bill, from the Hamlet of Tulita and the City of Yellowknife. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the communities who welcomed us on our travels and everyone who provided input on Bill 31.

The clause-by-clause review was held on February 21, 2019. At this meeting, the committee moved three separate motions to amend Bill 31. All three were carried, with concurrence from the Minister. At this time, I would like to recognize that the committee found the Minister and the department to be strong partners in the development of this legislation and sincerely appreciates that we were able to find common ground and concurrence with the motions to improve the bill by way of amendment. It is not lost on us. Sometimes, those differences of opinion can impact legislation, but, in this case, we were able to find a common vision for 911 services in the Northwest Territories and to work collaboratively to achieve it, and I think it is a strong example of how to draft good legislation in this Assembly.

With that, Mr. Chair, individual Members may have additional comments, but I have nothing further. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister, do you have witnesses you wish to bring into the Chamber?

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my left, I have Cherie Jarock, who is the legislative council for the Department of Justice. On my immediate right, Mr. Ashley Geraghty, the 911 program manager for MACA, and, on my far right, Ms. Eleanor Young, my deputy minister for Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Welcome to the witnesses. Committee, I will open the floor to general comments on Bill 31. Seeing none, we will proceed to a clause-by-clause review. We will defer the bill number and title until after consideration of the clauses. I will call out each clause, and, if committee agrees, please respond accordingly. Please turn to page 1 of the bill.

---Clauses 1 through 14 inclusive, approved

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Committee, those are all of the clauses. I will now call the bill number and title. Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Bill 31?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** To the bill as a whole, does committee agree that Bill 31 is now ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Bill 31 is now ready for third reading. This concludes our consideration of the bill. I will go to Minister Moses for some closing comments.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Just really quickly, Mr. Chair. I want to thank the previous Ministers who worked on this bill. Obviously, I thank my staff, who did the hard work, went out, and did the consultation. I would like to thank the Chair for the comments that were made before we got into the proceedings of the bill and the work we have done collectively when we went through the clause-by-clause review. One thing that was important in the report was the comments from the municipal

leaders and make sure that we take that into consideration. I just wanted to thank everybody involved. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Thank you to the witnesses for appearing before us. You got a free ride today. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Mr. Testart.

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

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

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. First, I have to thank everyone who has been working behind the scenes. I know we have had some late nights this week. We really appreciate all the clerks, all the technicians, all the interpreters, and all the Pages who have been sticking it out with us over this last little while. Thank you to everybody.

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

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates 2019-2020; Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act; and Committee Report 13-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 31: Northwest Territories 911 Act, and would like to report progress with four motions carried; that Committee Report 13-18(3) is concluded; that Bill 31 is ready for third reading; that consideration of Tabled Document 322-18(3) is concluded and that the House concur with those estimates; and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do we have a seconder? Member for Mackenzie Delta. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried.

---Carried

Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Colleagues, before we adjourn today, I want to express my thanks to Gail Bennett. As many of you know, she assisted us again at the table and in committees during this session. Gail, our Clerk staff will be up to strength by the next sitting, so this may be your last appearance at the table, but maybe not.

I just want to say thank you on behalf of all my colleagues here in the House for helping us ensure an uninterrupted and high level of procedural support in this House and also at the committees. You are always welcome here, and we wish you well in what I hope is a serious effort at retirement.

---Applause

Masi for all your services over the years. You are always welcome here. Orders of the day. Madam Clerk.

### Orders of the Day

**COMMITTEE CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Franki-Smith):** [Translation] Orders of the day for Monday, March 11, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgments
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to the Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 46, Public Lands Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 44, Forest Act
  - Bill 45, Corrections Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 26, Statistics Act
- Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act
- Committee Report 12-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2018 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Northwest Territories Child and Family Services
- Minister's Statement 131-18(3), Sessional Statement
- Minister's Statement 151-18(3), New Federal Infrastructure Agreement
- Minister's Statement 158-18(3), Developments in Early Childhood Programs and Services
- Tabled Document 237-18(3), Independent Commission to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits 2018 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits Report, August 2018

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 31, Northwest Territories 911 Act

23. Orders of the Day

[Translation ends] There will be a public Board of Management meeting in committee room A at the rise of the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. [Translation] This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 11, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. [Translation ends]

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

