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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, February 23, 2016****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Finance.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 5-18(2):
SALUTE TO AWARD WINNERS IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINING INDUSTRY

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories mining industry has a rich, storied history. It has provided thousands of jobs to citizens across our 33 communities, billions in revenue for investment in the well-being of our peoples, and innovations that put the territory on the cutting edge of responsible resource development. Success in the mining sector has always been driven by the determination of proud individuals pursuing excellence in their field. I stand today to celebrate some individuals whose contributions and accomplishments have recently been acknowledged with national awards from the mining industry.

First, I would like to recognize Eira Thomas, known by many as the "Queen of Diamonds," who recently received the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia's Hugo Dummett Diamond Award for Excellence in Diamond Exploration and Development. I was fortunate to be at the recent Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver, British Columbia where she received her award. The Dummett Award recognizes her career-long dedication and achievement in diamond exploration, discovery, and mine development in Canada. Ms. Thomas' work in the diamond industry has been nothing short of remarkable. She played an important role in the discovery and development of the Diavik mine through her work as a geologist, then executive with Aber Resources Ltd., the company we now know as Dominion Diamonds. She went on to work with Stornoway Diamonds, whose Renard Project in Quebec will soon become a new Canadian diamond mine. We all know the

opportunities her work has brought to our territory, and Eira deserves our thanks for her contributions.

Meanwhile, at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's Convention in Toronto next month, a special achievement award will be given to the Bjorkman family for their multi-generational dedication to geology, prospecting, and diversity. Jessica and Veronique Bjorkman in particular are helping to put a new face on prospecting in the NWT, most recently developing and leading the very successful community-based Prospecting Training Course in Yellowknife, Detah, and the Tlicho region in association with our government and its Aboriginal and industry partners.

But, on the subject of excellence, Mr. Speaker, I must also acknowledge a dedicated, highly-respected community leader whose footprints are deep and enduring in our territory. He was chosen this year to receive the Canadian Mining Industry's prestigious Skookum Jim Award for his innovation, hard work, and dedication to the mineral industry, through which he has improved the lives of many in his community. I am talking, of course, about Mr. Darrell Beaulieu. Mr. Beaulieu's leadership of the Det'on Cho Corporation, Denendeh Investment Corporation, and DEMCO, along with his countless board memberships, has brought Dene participation in our mineral industry to the fore. We pride ourselves in the Northwest Territories on our partnership approach to working with Aboriginal governments and Mr. Beaulieu deserves our gratitude for his role in the historic success of our mining industry. Mr. Speaker, success is always built on the back of the innovators who push the industry forward. I invite all Members of this Assembly to join me in celebrating the well-deserved recognition that these individuals have received from leaders in the mineral sector and the contributions they have each made to the economic and social well-being of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of Mr. David Jones, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for Northwest Territories. Later this afternoon, I will table the 2015 Annual Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Jones to the House this afternoon.

---Applause.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO TRADITIONAL FOOD STUDY

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, Traditional food has an important place in culture. Food is essential to who we are as people, both biologically and spiritually. Food from the land makes your spirit and body stronger, but the impacts of climate change and heavy industry on natural environment are becoming more and more evident in our traditional food supply. People are wondering about health risks associated with consuming country foods. Researchers from the University of Waterloo are conducting a study on the risks posed to residents' health from locally acquired foods. A research team has been working with Dene communities to collect blood, hair, and urine samples from volunteers to test for levels of contaminants like mercury, cadmium, and lead. They will also analyze the nutrients found in common local foods to help determine the best country foods that provide the most nutrients and the least contaminants. Previous studies have shown levels of contaminants in country foods, but this study will look at how much of the contamination has been absorbed by humans. The cost of goods is increasing.

Many of our small communities offer very little in terms of the mainstream wage economy. That frees our people from the rat race, but it also makes them more reliant on traditional harvesting activities. In our small communities, people tend to have more active traditional harvesting lifestyles. Moose meat, whitefish, ducks, geese, and berries are common on the tables of many people in the Deh Cho. Harvesting these foods from the land maintains traditional knowledge and important cultural traditions.

Before we suggest people limit the amount of country food they eat, we must understand the risks and benefits. Studies like the one underway by the University of Waterloo can link science to traditional knowledge and guide decision-makers and policy-makers as we work to secure the future of food for the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about the impacts of residential

schools in the NWT. Residential schools have taken language, culture, and lives of many Aboriginal people who have passed on. Many of them are here with us today. Through the work of many initiatives of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the TRC, the reality of those tragedies are brought more and more into focus. As Canadians move forward in a way to leave the past behind and create forgiveness and cultural respect for the future of Aboriginal people in Canada, as leaders we must take the lead to ensure that former students, family members, and educators receive the proper education in helping Aboriginal people move forward and, most of all, heal from the horrible experiences they've lived.

Canadians can create a new legacy for children of all nations and cultures by joining hands in an open process of dialogue of reconciliation. Survivors of residential schools live in all regions of Canada today and many other cultures have suffered. Canadians need to hear our stories and find ways to ensure our collective future rests on a solid foundation of respect, openness, and trust. We can build a stronger North by teaching our educators to help our generations heal as youth continue to struggle in schools across the North and Canada. Quyanainni . Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm going to talk about something that is near and dear to my heart. Yes, you guessed it. Youth. For the past 28 years, my career has been focused on doing something for these special folks. I apologize to this individual, I don't have his name right now, but I'd like to share a revised quote that I've tried to live by throughout these years. For the government to realize the huge dividends our youth bring to us, we must take every step possible to invest in them empowerment, education, and employment of our young people. By investing in these three areas for youth, we are investing in our greatest resources in the NWT.

It isn't non-renewable or renewable resources that we have. Don't get me wrong. These resources are important, but they are not as important as our youth. To develop this resource we need to encourage youth to be the best they can be, to challenge them and help them challenge themselves to be successful. Whether they become doctors, teachers, tradespeople, hairdressers or stay-at-home parents, all these are important in our society. I have to say, the government does a great job in empowering our youth through our vast array

of programs such as Youth Ambassadors an youth tours, an excellent school program both during and after school hours. We provide funding to non-government organizations who offer additional opportunities for our youth to grow and develop their talent and skills, then we look at what the government does to enhance education and funding for post-secondary, and we are two-thirds of the way there. However, when we look at the last piece of the puzzle, employment, we seem to be missing something. I look at how this government could help our young people, especially students in grade 12 and post-secondary programs that need summer employment, and I notice a gap. Then I look at the opportunities for the youth from smaller communities and see they have limited or no access to government positions where they live. They need to move to bigger centres to have a chance to land one of these positions. This does not seem fair.

In the past I've witnessed the government make it a priority to provide summer jobs for students so that they can financially be prepared to continue their education. A number of students and parents have asked me about the status of student summer jobs. I could not answer their questions. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to leave you today with the wise words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, "We cannot always build a future for our youth, but we can build our youth for our future." Later on, I'll have questions for the Minister of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest priorities for this government in current times is to support economic growth. We need to do more to support industry exploration and development activities. How do we do that? We foster an environment that makes it easier to conduct business in the North. One of the critical hurdles for resource development in the NWT is a lack of access to remote areas. Lack of access prevents companies from exploring in areas with significant resource potential. This limits the potential for future resource development and the economic growth that it could create. Lack of transportation infrastructure is a challenge for many of our communities. It limits residents' mobility, making it difficult to build and expand ties between communities and families, and when the movement

of goods and services relies on that same infrastructure, it makes everything cost more. At the same time, the infrastructure we do have is being seriously affected by climate change. Melting permafrost is damaging existing roadways and warmer winters are resulting in shorter seasons for our winter road system. In summer, low water levels are affecting our capacity to generate power.

These impacts of climate change are creating additional costs for residents and businesses in communities and represent additional costs and challenges for the resource sector and the future economic growth and well-being of the territory. In a land as broad as the Northwest Territories, our transportation network is crucial infrastructure for families, communities, businesses, and the industrial growth that our economy needs. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of Transportation with regard to highway infrastructure and funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INNOVATIVE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has tasked itself with fortifying our resource sector and diversifying our economy. These two goals require different approaches. However, to be successful at either it is essential that we have a well-trained workforce. The same way this Assembly is committed to supporting the physical infrastructure needed to grow the economy, we need to equally support the workforce development. If we spend hundreds of millions of dollars on infrastructure to attract new mining operations and don't have the skilled workforce to staff them, hundreds of millions more in wages will flow out of the territory, as has been the case for the past 20 years. In my experience working in industry and as an MLA, I've encountered many issues that hinder our ability to train, certify, and retain Northern residents.

A major roadblock to apprenticing in Hay River, and I'm sure every other small community, is the lack of journeymen. I recently dealt with a constituent who wanted to begin offering apprenticeships to his employees. The problem was that in that particular trade there are only four journeymen in the entire territory, and none were available. This is a problem with more common trades as well. I've worked with people who have seven years of carpentry experience, but have never had the opportunity to be apprenticed. We have a small population spread out over a huge area, so these are the kind of problems that we run into. Because of this reality, we need to innovate made-in-the-north solutions to these problems.

A creative suggestion that I've received from some small- and medium-sized employers is to create a program where journeymen apprentice employees at different locations, different companies. Some businesses don't need or can't afford a fulltime carpenter, but they do enough carpentry work that their employees gain significant experience. A journeyman could spend time at different locations verifying the amount and quality of work and signing off on hours. If it was a government-run program, they could utilize current employees, making it very cost effective. I understand there also used to be a program where the government would take on an apprentice with the sole purpose of giving that person the opportunity to become a journeyman. Once he or she received their ticket their tenure ended. The value added to the economy by having a skilled worker who is more employable, higher paid and who can apprentice future workers far outweighs the minimal costs of this program.

These are just a couple examples of the kind of programs we need to be looking into to build a workforce for the future. I've worked with Minister Moses on apprenticeship issues and I know he sees the importance of them, so I'm optimistic that this Assembly will see some much-needed and impactful changes to our apprenticeship programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BEAR RIVER BRIDGE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to make a Member's statement in regards to the BRB, or the Bear River Bridge, a vital infrastructure link on the proposed Mackenzie Valley right-of-way between Fort Wrigley and Norman Wells, a distance of 330 kilometres. This link has a bit of history on it. It was procured by the previous, previous government back in 2006 and as a result of limited resources, was postponed and deferred to this Assembly. In preparation for that, the Hamlet of Tulita, in my discussions with the mayor, is in a position now to move ahead and explore options available when considering -- and he has considered -- the physical situation of our government. The readiness approach would engage into discussion between this government and his community and his public members, and later I will have questions to the Minister of Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEPARTMENT OF LANDS LIABILITIES AND FINANCIAL ASSURANCES DIVISION

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Lands announced the establishment of the liabilities and financial assurances division in a news release dated September 12, 2014. This was in response to our newly inherited authority over lands and waters acquired through devolution. These are very significant new responsibilities and require careful management to ensure that we do not repeat the legacies and disasters left behind from the poor policies and legislation of the federal government. It is critically important that we get our financial security management system in order to prevent further public liabilities and contaminated sites. This government agreed in March 2005 to contribute \$23 million to the remediation of the Giant Mine because of the liability we incurred for a surface lease where no security was required of the mine owner. More recently, this government had to issue a special warrant for \$4.5 million to allow the Cantung mine to be transferred back to the federal government. Through devolution, we have now inherited responsibility for the Prairie Creek site where we hold a surface lease that does not require full reclamation. This needs to be changed before we incur more millions of dollars of environmental liabilities.

These liabilities occurred under our watch and we can, and we must, do much better. We cannot afford to mismanage our resources. Future generations will not forgive us. According to the Minister of Land's statement in this House on November 6, 2014, the liabilities and financial assurances division was established to develop "strong and effective collaboration between departments with legislated responsibilities for security deposits, as well as central agencies such as the departments of Finance and Justice." He said "This division will also lead and coordinate short and longer-term policy development concerning the government's management of securities."

I am very concerned with the slow progress of this work to date, especially in light of the looming liabilities from the Prairie Creek site. I do not believe the division has ever achieved its full complement of staff, senior staff positions are now vacant, and there has been no public policy of guidelines to ensure sound financial security systems. In this time of fiscal challenges, we need to get this critical work back on track. I will have questions later today for the Minister of Lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRAINING
RELATED TO TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN
THE MACKENZIE DELTA

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Mackenzie Delta will be the high-tech hub of the Northwest Territories. Due to its northern location and the frequent passes of satellites, Inuvik is an ideal location for technology infrastructure. Since 2010 it has been home to the Inuvik Satellite Station Facility. With the completion of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link, the Delta will be more connected to business than ever. The Government of the Northwest Territories has committed millions of dollars to the fibre optic line and the new Western Arctic Centre for Geomatics in Inuvik. But where are the job opportunities for Northerners? How are we making the most of this opportunity to develop the northern workforce?

Aurora College in Inuvik opens its doors every day to prepare students for jobs in many different fields. We have a chance to train Northerners to work at the satellite station and the new geomatics centre. Staff at the geomatics centre will work with Aboriginal and federal governments, research teams and the Aurora Research Institute. Their work will include planning, research projects, work on environmental monitoring, mapping, emergency response, shipping and navigation, and northern sovereignty issues. People with knowledge and understanding of the North would be ideal candidates for these positions. What better place to train for this work than in Inuvik?

The federal government has demonstrated commitment to technology in the Mackenzie Delta. The Inuvik Satellite Station Facility has important partners in Germany and Sweden. The youth of today are tech-savvy and understand digital technology. That knowledge should be tapped into. Working with partners at Aurora College and elsewhere, the Government of the Northwest Territories can help the people of the Delta participate in these new developments. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues. The new fibre optic line belongs to the people of the North. We need to do all we can as a government to help them be a part of the future.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DIVERSIFYING
THE ECONOMY

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government has sounded the alarm about the impact of weakened markets for non-renewable resource products and the need to broaden the base of our economy. The Commissioner's Opening Address referred to the need for strategic investment, diversification, and modernization of the economy in its growth sectors. I agree. The growth of sectors outside of non-renewable resources is impressive. Tourism contributes over \$100 million and has good potential in every region. The contributions of the forestry, fishing, and agriculture sectors, while small, have posted the largest growth rates of any sector in the past five years. The manufacturing sector has increased by 26 per cent over five years and at \$10 million, shows great prospects for growth in the renewable energy sector. Forestry, fishing, hunting, and agriculture have also posted significant gains at almost 14 per cent in five years and are now worth a combined total of \$29 million. The Yellowknife Farmers Market is a million dollar enterprise that didn't exist five years ago. Bear in mind that these are the jobs that provide the greatest return on investment. One million dollars invested in the oil and gas industry results in just 0.5 jobs, while the diamond industries creates 1.1 jobs for \$1 million dollars spent. Compare that to the forest sector where \$1 million dollars returns a whopping 23.4 jobs.

Locally-owned enterprises offer the greatest multipliers and provide more stable, accessible and longer term jobs. They have a smaller environmental footprint by replacing imports, thus reducing the cost of living. Communities with locally-owned small enterprises have lower crime rates, use fewer social services, have better public health, maintain cultural continuity, and have lower rates of poverty, according to recent research commissioned by Alternatives North, and perhaps above all, any success in diversifying our economy gives our territory greater stability. It fights the non-renewable resource sector boom and bust.

Where this government can make a difference is in promotion of those renewable resource sectors. Small investments can provide major returns in reducing food insecurity, addressing energy costs through the introduction of renewables, and generally lowering the cost of living and the need for big paycheques. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. As we turn to considering our economic supports and infrastructure spending, let's target

our money where it will do the most good, producing the most durable jobs for dollars spent, and producing the most social good with the least environmental harm. I will have questions for the Minister of Lands. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF PROPOSED WAGE FREEZE

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, I started my career in the public service as an excluded employee, working as an administrative assistant. I can confirm to this House that I was not in a position that earned a high salary, and given the high cost of living and working in the NWT, my family often struggled to save for our future. In challenging times it is important that our government show decisive leadership. I fully support a pay freeze for myself as an MLA and for public servants in management positions. However, I find it difficult to support a pay freeze that may unduly burden public servants at lesser positions who have less in their pockets as costs for everyday expenses continue to increase. I have often before cautioned this government on rushing ahead with cost-saving measures without considering the full range of consequences of those actions, and again, I share my concerns that this decision has unintended consequences for many hardworking Northerners. I will have questions for the Minister of Finance on the impacts of this decision later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our country has invited 25,000 refugees to live in this wonderful country of ours, but our federal minister indicated that should not be at the expense of the poorest people in Canada and also that would include the Northwest Territories. We need to take care of our people first. Refugees will need a place to live and they will need a place to work and they will need a place for their kids to go to school. What I think is an important thing for the people of the Northwest Territories, especially people in the small communities, is that they need a place to work. We need jobs for the people in the small communities. Over the next four years, I would like to see this government work with the small communities to increase employment rates in the small communities to 55 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Fifty-five per cent, to put it in some context, is a number that is manageable by small communities. Right now, most of the small communities' employment rates are in the 40 per cent category, some just slightly over 40 per cent. Overall in the Northwest Territories we're at about 66 per cent. It's not an insurmountable task to get to 55 per cent, as an example, in Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. In the four communities that I represent, that means about 80 jobs.

I'm not asking about 80 jobs from the Government of Northwest Territories, I'm asking the government to spend strategically and use its infrastructure money and help other local governments and so on to put people to work. Right now, as opposed to putting people to work, what's happening is that our social spending continues to increase. It's a known and acceptable fact that employment rates and health outcomes are directly correlated. The lower the employment, the higher the health indicators we have in communities. That's also true for graduation rates, the rates of addictions, and the need for social housing. Employment rates in NWT are pretty good, as I indicated, but in the communities that I represent it's about 46 per cent, and I have done some work and I can see that it is very easy to achieve higher employment rates which will give us the numbers that we need to move forward.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Honourable Premier.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to recognize in the gallery Mr. Darrell Beaulieu, the recipient of the Skookum Jim Award this year, and also a constituent of Yellowknife South, Mr. Peter Vician. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize Darrell Beaulieu, a constituent from Wiilideh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Quyanainniini, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize Mr. Darrell Beaulieu. I remember when they started Det'on Cho Diamonds; I was a diamond polisher there. Welcome, Mr. Beaulieu.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Nancy Vail. She's a constituent in Frame Lake. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wanted to acknowledge Nancy Vail, a tireless volunteer in our community working on a number of different files to improve our lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize Darrell Beaulieu and Peter Vician, members of our strong support Northern community leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my constituency assistant, Garett Cochrane. He's one of the hardest working individuals I know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. For those individuals in the gallery that we may have missed, masi for being here with us. It's always great to have an audience in the gallery.

Item 7, acknowledgements. The honourable Premier.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 4-18(2): RETIREMENT OF PETER VICIAN

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge a man who embodies leadership, innovation, and dedication. Loyal and committed to the public service for 35 years, Peter Vician will retire as deputy minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Since its inception in 2005, Mr. Vician has guided the department through its evolution and has been a leader in the development and diversification of our economy. Mr. Vician was a key player in the Government of Northwest Territories achieving devolution, helped build our diamond industry, led the development of the Economic Opportunities Strategy and played a key role in numerous socio-economic agreements. I could go on about the accomplishments he has had in his career, but in the interest of time I would like to say this: Mr. Vician truly believes in service above self. He has dedicated to making the Northwest Territories a great place to live and do business, and for that, Peter, we thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I too would like to thank Mr. Vician for all the years of service with the Government of Northwest Territories and I wish you best of luck in your retirement. Masi cho.

Acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 35-18(2): UPDATE ON ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 9, 2015, right after the federal election, Prime Minister Trudeau wrote a letter to our Premier. I would like to ask some questions of the Premier on that letter. In the letter, it indicated that the northern residents tax deduction that was announced and was part of the campaign was going to be something coming into effect and increase in the northern residents tax deduction. I would like to ask the Premier if he knows when that comes into effect. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did meet with Prime Minister Trudeau about a week ago, and I raised the matter of the cost of living and he reconfirmed that he had committed to doing something about it, specifically, the northern residents tax deduction. He did not specify a timeframe or timeline, but we all know that Minister -- the federal Minister of Finance has committed to filing his first budget in March, and we will wait and see if it makes that first budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Also, in that letter, the Prime Minister wrote about Nutrition North Canada and about increasing that program by \$40 million. I would like to ask the Premier if we have any indication of which communities in the NWT would be positively impacted by that program. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Minister Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, did come to the Northwest Territories in January. I forget the exact date, but she did travel to Norman Wells to talk specifically about Nutrition North, since Norman Wells is one of the communities that is covered under Indigenous North, and she did consult with the affected people.

There is no indication of when this will come into effect, but she has certainly indicated the government is prepared to move on it fairly quickly, and again, the way governments work, I don't expect there will be any indication one way or the

other until the first budget of the Government of Canada is delivered towards the ends of March.

MR. BEAULIEU: The Prime Minister wrote about doubling infrastructure investment in the country from \$65 billion to \$125 billion. That's over ten years. Do we have any indication at all about how the money is going to be divided, or if we know what our share of the \$125 billion infrastructure spending would be?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: In his letter, he indicated for the first two years, they would double the infrastructure funding budget that was billed in Canada. That is a question of interest to all the provinces and territories. We have met with Minister Morneau, the federal Finance Minister, where we raised and discussed infrastructure funding. I did talk to the Prime Minister about social infrastructure, green infrastructure, and also the Building Canada Fund. He has indicated that he recognizes the importance of those infrastructure funds. I indicated to him that as a small territory, obviously, our preference is base plus funding as opposed to per capita funding as has been reported in some of the media reports.

He indicated that he understood the situation. The Minister of Finance, when pressed, indicated that they wouldn't be finalizing or rolling out their infrastructure program until June or July. Certainly, as a government, we are working very hard to reconfirm our Building Canada projects that we submitted before the election.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister indicated that they would be moving to a faster approval process for Building Canada Fund, as the Premier just mentioned. When will this faster process occur? Because what I am seeing is even from what has been approved by the last government, the bundles that I questioned the transportation minister on before, seems to be slowed down from what the original intent of those bundles were. Does the Premier have any indication of when the faster approval process will occur? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have reached out to the federal government, both through our Minister with lead responsibility for Infrastructure and also Minister of Transportation. We have had some mixed signals, but we are taking steps to reconfirm our bundles. Bundle number two, as the Member knows, was submitted before the federal election. We are reconfirming very soon bundle number two, which is in the neighbourhood of \$100 million, but the Prime Minister himself has indicated that there

is still \$185 million allocated for the Northwest Territories that he has said would be going out.

We have had the Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories also following up on infrastructure to clear up some of these mixed messages. We have been talking to the federal Minister responsible for infrastructure, so we are taking steps to make sure the money starts flowing as soon as possible, and also to reconfirm what our assets are.

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

QUESTION 36-18(2):
MANDATORY TRAINING REGARDING
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I spoke about residential schools and reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. My question is: have you implemented mandatory training for teachers and Education, Culture, and Employment staff on residential schools?

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's statement that the Member brought forward on residential school training. As residential schools have impacted people in every community in the Northwest Territories, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission brought these issues forward to all Canadians, as well as to people of the Northwest Territories. Mandatory training has been brought forward in a variety of ways. We have developed, in partnership with Nunavut, a residential school curriculum through our Northern Studies program. We have also introduced mandatory training to all teachers in the Northwest Territories, kindergarten to grade 12, and our goal is to have every teacher who teaches in the Northwest Territories take that awareness training. We have made this residential school training available to all Education, Culture and Employment, and we have made it mandatory for all Education, Culture and Employment employees to take it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: My question is: is there a plan to expand the training to other interested groups?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission bringing forth the recommendations, when we looked at them, we found out we were already doing a lot of this work throughout the Northwest Territories. With that said, we are offering some of this training to other

jurisdictions throughout the North and throughout Canada. I myself participated in the training. We had participants from Nunavut, Yukon, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and we are also looking at getting federal ministers who are also interested in taking some of this residential school training. Our goal is to ensure that anybody that does work here in the North is aware of the impact that residential schools had on our people, our families, and our communities.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: My question is: could this training be made available to all Members of the Legislative Assembly?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As leaders for the Northwest Territories, leaders in our communities, and Members who make decisions for people throughout the Northwest Territories, you heard earlier of some of the social implications that we see in our small communities. I would be more than happy to work with Members to have all Members participate in this residential school training.

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

QUESTION 37-18(2):
MACKENZIE VALLEY FIBRE OPTIC LINK

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be for the Minister of Finance. My first question is: can the Minister provide a brief update on the status of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is work is progressing along very well and my understanding is that it's supposed to be lights-on during 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Can the Minister identify the jobs that may be available at the Inuvik Satellite Station Facility and the Western Arctic Geomatics Centre as a result of the completion of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, because of Inuvik's geographically-gifted location there's a great deal of interest in satellite stations in Inuvik. I had the opportunity to speak to a number of those folks that want to put satellite receiving stations there. It's obviously very high-tech field. I have spoken to the gentleman that was doing the consulting for the GNWT and I had asked him to give us some of the skill sets that may be required for working on the facilities once they're completed, and he was going to get that information back to me, but I see a great opportunity to work with

Aurora College to possibly have some of the training available for some of the higher-tech positions. Once I get that list and some of the skill sets that might be needed, I will share it with the Member and with committee.

MR. BLAKE: That answered a part of my next question, but I'll ask this anyway. Has the Minister worked with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to identify training opportunities in connection with the new Geomatics Centre and the Inuvik Satellite Station Facility?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: No, I haven't had a conversation with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment yet. But, as I said before, once I get a better understanding of some of the skill sets that might be needed and some of the training courses that we may be able to offer, I will have a conversation with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to see if there's an opportunity for us to consider running some courses that might be beneficial to a number of our students. In my conversations with the folks from DLR in Germany, I had talked to them about the fact that if they can send folks over to Inuvik and train some of our people there, I said, or we can send some of our young people over to Germany to get the proper training there. His comment was, well, if we send people to Inuvik they may not want to come back, and I said, that's precisely the point.

---Laughter

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister commit to discussing training opportunities with for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and other relevant departments, to increase the number of Northerners involved in the research and development that is taking place in our back yard? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Absolutely. I see this as a great opportunity for a knowledge-based economy in Inuvik and I think there's plenty of opportunities there. I will work with all the appropriate departments to see if we can come up with plans and options for our young people, because as we all know, our young people nowadays are very tech savvy and they will be able to contribute a lot, and this might be something that would interest a lot of them. I will commit to working with my colleagues to see what we can advance.

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

QUESTION 38-18(2):
CHALLENGES TO TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I spoke to earlier today, one of the critical challenges for resource development in the NWT is lack of transportation infrastructure. In recent years climate change impacts are affecting that infrastructure through melting permafrost and shortened winter road seasons. Infrastructure challenges increase cost to families and business, as we know. They also add costs and challenges for the resource sector which compromises economic growth in the territory. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation what his department's plan is for addressing the challenges to transportation infrastructure in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation is committed to addressing NWT's infrastructure deficit and improving the level of services provided by the NWT transportation system. The department has recently released a 25-year transportation strategy entitled "Connecting Us," which will guide the actions, and maintain and improve existing infrastructure, expand the highway system to better connect communities and support economic development, and modernize transportation programs and policies to improve service delivery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I know that most of us in here are aware, but in the interest of informing NWT residents, has the Department of Transportation identified which new road projects will be priorities for this government?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: NWT's transportation strategy identifies three priority transportation corridors which the department is making an effort to advance. The first one is the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the second is the Tlicho all-weather road, and improved access to the Slave Geological Province.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Can the Minister of Transportation tell us why these three corridors were chosen to be priorities?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: "Connecting Us," the department's transportation strategy, identifies the long-term plans for the transportation system, so that the system can support and enable economic development. The strategy identifies three strategic transportation corridors because of the benefits that construction of all-weather roads in these regions will have on NWT residents and long-term

economic stability. The Mackenzie Valley Highway will connect several communities to the public highway system, providing transportation efficiencies that will result in a reduced cost of living for residents. The highway will also provide access to a vast wealth of petroleum reserves in the region which could be tapped into to boost and diversify the NWT economy. Replacing the existing winter road would help us adapt to the pressures of climate change, which are reducing the window of access into the Mackenzie Valley.

The Tlicho all-season road would also improve access to communities in the region, resulting in lower cost of living. The road will support future development of the NICO-based mineral project and encourage further investment in the region. Lastly, the Slave Geological Province continues to be a major contributor to the NWT economy. Providing all-weather access into this region would help the NWT reach its full potential by supporting further mine development projects.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lastly, I would like to know how the Department of Transportation is working to identify funding for these important construction projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The department is working closely with the federal government on funding of submissions for the NWT under the New Building Canada Plan to fund new road projects. A detailed business case was submitted to Canada in August 2015, requesting funding to begin construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells. We are still awaiting a response from the federal government regarding this request.

In addition, the GNWT submitted a proposal for the Tlicho all-weather road to the P3 Canada Fund for round 7 of funding consideration. We were informed that the project was screened in. At this time, we are working to provide any additional details that our federal counterparts may require as we await final decision on this project. The departments of Transportation and Finance continue to work on P3 business case's assessment to determine optimal routing for increasing access to the Slave Geological Province. Planning work underway includes detailed road analysis and cost estimates, and will provide information so that we can maximize long-term opportunities for Northerners.

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

QUESTION 39-18(2):
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, LIABILITIES AND
FINANCIAL ASSURANCES DIVISION

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When I checked the GNWT phone directory listing on our website, there's no longer a director for the liabilities and financial assurances division, and only two staff: a project assistant and a specialist. It's not clear what is going on with the staffing of the division. Can the Minister of Lands tell us whether people are leaving this division and why, and what are the plans to fill those positions? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Lands is less than two years old and the financial liabilities and financial assurance division was added after the creation of the Department of Lands. Turnover and staff departures and difficulty recruiting these highly-specialized positions are just some of the challenges that the organization has faced since start-up. Despite that, we have moved quickly and the director's position now has been filled on an acting basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: One of the purposes of the liabilities and financial assurance division within the Department of Lands was "lead and coordinate short and longer term policy development concerning the government's management of securities." Can the Minister of Lands indicate whether any policies and/or guidelines have been completed since the division was created last year, and table such documents in this House?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: A significant body of work was completed by Queen's University which provided the building blocks for the development of guidelines. There are draft guidelines currently under internal review and discussion, and we need to take into account the distribution of decision-making authorities in the NWT between resource management boards and various GNWT and federal departments. It will be incumbent on us to get these guidelines right so that they are accepted, endorsed, and found to be practical and useful by all parties. They must be grounded in operational realities and reflective of the GNWT's risk to all tolerance towards securities. We cannot afford to get these wrong and therefore, we're taking measured incremental steps to get them right.

MR. O'REILLY: I just want to better understand the slow progress on the establishment of this division and the critical work that it's starting to get place. I believe the Minister may have partially answered the question here, but can the Minister of Lands describe what the barriers are for this work and

what the Department of Lands is doing to get this important work back on track?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I take a different view of the progress of the liabilities and financial assurance division. In less than two years, within the department, we have successfully established a new unit that was not contemplated at the time of devolution. This unit has so far managed a significant body of work from Queen's University and commenced work on the policy foundation that will guide them through future operations; supported the GNWT in decision-making on an innovation form of \$253-million security for Ekati; completed an initial scoping study of Cantung issues that prepared the GNWT on managing issues going on in North American Tungsten insolvency proceedings; and developed an internal tracking approach to ensure whole-project tracking of securities. These are just some of the accomplishments of this unit in a very short time period.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to again thank the Minister for his response. If he took the impression that I don't believe the division's actually doing anything, I do understand that there is a lot of work that's underway, but we just had a \$4.5 million special warrant that was necessary to deal with the closure and reclamation of the Cantung Mine. There's some unreconciled liabilities associated with the Prairie Creek property and other sites, so I just want to get some further assurances from the Minister of Lands that our financial security systems are working. I wonder whether there's a work plan that he could table in this House for the division.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The \$4.5 million special warrant allowed the GNWT to take the necessary action to transfer responsibility for the closure and the reclamation of the Cantung Mine to the Government of Canada. Both Cantung and Prairie Creek are legacy sites that were not regulated under the modern regulatory and approval systems that we have in place today, and furthermore, they were managed by another level of government with a different level of risk tolerance than the GNWT. In the case of both Cantung and Prairie Creek, the GNWT has protection from liability through the Devolution Agreement. We can't change the past, but we can and have learned from it, which is why the GNWT is carrying out work on securities and the development of systems and guidelines.

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

QUESTION 40-18(2):
GNWT SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To follow up on my Member's statement here today, I have some questions for the Minister of Human Resources. In the past, government departments have identified potential summer student positions and the process has been started. Right now, there seems to be a delay, so I would like to ask, can the Minister tell us what the department's plans are in rolling out summer jobs this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Human Resources.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, ultimately the hiring of summer students is a responsibility of the individual departments. The Department of Human Resources helps facilitate the summer student process by actually getting students registered. The Department of Human Resources has been undertaking marketing and the intake of summer students since December 2015. We've been out advertising on the GNWT career website. Posters and advertising have been placed around Yellowknife and other locations, regional human resource offices. We've done a Student Financial Assistant blast to individual students saying, "Come on, let's get registered as a summer student," and we've also been posting on Facebook. We're encouraging students to get registered so that when the departments do decide to actually hire some summer students, they can go to the registered students and select appropriate students based on our hiring practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I'm a little bit confused. I guess. Do departments come to Human Resources and tell you exactly how many positions they're looking for? If they are, how many positions are looked for outside of Yellowknife?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Department of Human Resources, as I've indicated, will actually go out and get students who are interested in getting summer student work with the government registered. At that point, if a department chooses to hire summer students, and ultimately the departments get to choose when, how long, and where, or those types of things, with respect to whether or not they hire summer students. They can come to the Department of Human Resources and review our database to make sure that they're selecting individuals that are suitable for the types of employment that they're looking for, apply an affirmative action and those types of things. There is no set number of students. Last year, we were

able to hire 341 students in the Government of the Northwest Territories, but there is no set number. Obviously, we as a government want to employ as many students as we can and we want to employ as many students throughout the territories, not just in Yellowknife, but in regional centres, communities, but ultimately where, how long, and where they actually do the hiring is the decision of individual departments. Human Resources will help facilitate the process.

MR. THOMPSON: Is the Department of Human Resources willing to work with the departments to see if we can get some summer employment positions out to the smaller communities -- not the regional centres, but the smaller communities to help get employment for these students?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Absolutely. I mean if the departments indicate that they have some positions they'd like to fill in the communities, we're absolutely there to help support them to select the appropriate individuals to fill those positions and we do have a couple of different programs that are available through the Department of Human Resources to help the departments actually do some hiring. We have the Progressive Experience Program that actually provides a subsidy to the individual departments to help them offset the cost of hiring summer students. They could certainly use that type of funding in communities, regions, as well as centres throughout the Northwest Territories, but we're there to help the departments facilitate the process and hire the most appropriate students for the jobs that they wish to put in place.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister again for the great information that we can share with the small communities. Can the Minister use summer employment strategies to help get these small communities employed with working with the departments for next year?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Through Building Our Future 20/20, we're actually always looking for ways to enhance the employment opportunities for students, as well as just residents of the Northwest Territories. I'd be interested in sitting down with the Member and getting a little bit more insight into what the Member means by a youth employment strategy and how he would see something like that rolling out, but I'd certainly be interested in having that conversation and getting more input and feedback from the Member and committee.

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

QUESTION 41-18(2):
IMPACTS OF PROPOSED WAGE FREEZE ON
EXCLUDED GNWT EMPLOYEES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when many people think of excluded or non-unionized employees they think of senior managers and higher ups in government, when in fact there are many who serve in regular positions such as secretaries, administrative assistants, and analysts. My question for the Minister of Finance is: How will this pay freeze affect non-management employees in the public service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Member is referring to those that are in the public service with Union of Northern Workers, there's a process that we're going through right through negotiations, and whatever agreement they come up with we will adhere to that.

MR. TESTART: I actually was referring to members outside of collective bargaining who are excluded from the union and who have had their salaries frozen by the announcement we heard a couple of days ago, so if the Minister could clarify those employees.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The announcement that was made a few days ago freezing the salaries for all managers, excluded employees, and deputy ministers, I think the total was about 844 people. What we are doing is freezing the grids, so there is still an opportunity for them to progress through the grids that they're in right now, up to about, my understanding is, 2.5 per cent a year. If they haven't reached the top of their grid, there's still opportunity there for them. The grids are frozen, though.

MR. TESTART: Can the Minister of Finance provide the cost saving numbers that will result from this measure for both management level and non-management level excluded employees?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The total savings over the two years that we've enacted the freeze it will be approximately \$3.8 million. That would include the excluded employees, senior managers, and the deputy ministers.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think we must be cautious in moving forward with these decisions and I would encourage the Minister to carefully evaluate whether non-management employees should be considered under this wage freeze. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We have taken that into consideration and we have to understand that we're facing some challenges fiscally, and with some of the asks from this Legislative Assembly going forward we're going to be having to manage our finances a lot closer. But I take the Member's point and we will have an opportunity to have a discussion concerning the savings that we need to realize during the business planning process and when we table the Main Estimates.

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

QUESTION 42-18(2):
BEAR RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation in regards to the Bear River Bridge, a 470-metre span structure crossing the Great Bear River-Tulita junction. The leadership in Tulita -- the chief, mayor, and councillors -- recently concluded their meetings in support and preparation for this and they would like to undertake discussions to engage with the Minister and the department on a project-readiness approach. My question to the Minister is let's take advantage of that energy. Let's look at the need for it. It would also create confidence in the outside investors, as well as giving this one of five communities in the Sahtu better access to granular, which is on the north side of the Bear River. My question to the Minister is if he's willing to move towards setting up a 50/50 combination approach for a bridge committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Bear River Bridge is a very important part of the Mackenzie Valley Highway application to the New Building Canada Plan. To single out Bear River Bridge as a standalone project is a little premature at this time. It's something that can be submitted, possibly, if the federal government comes back with a request for shovel-ready projects, but at this point it's submitted as part of the Mackenzie Valley Highway which is a bigger and larger process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: My next question is really, probably not appropriate, but I'm going to ask it anyway. Considering we've got no project, so I suppose we're going to think about asking this question and hopefully the Minister will respond. Is there some preliminary resource dollars for a project introductory or a stakeholders' introductory meeting between his department and the hamlet leadership?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: At this time, we don't have any money to put towards what the Member is

asking, but we can sit down with the leadership. We are planning a trip into the Sahtu in the near future, so I would look forward to sitting down with the Member and discussing the possibilities of discussing that with the leadership.

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

QUESTION 43-18(2):

MONITORING CONTAMINANTS IN TRADITIONAL FOODS

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my statement, I highlighted the University of Waterloo and their work with communities, especially in regards to small communities that have a very traditional base economy and rely on it in terms of their consumption of traditional foods. Here in the Northwest Territories, I think there's been a particular focus on climate change, because, you know, we all understand and know some of the visible evidence that we're experiencing in terms of global warming and its impact on the environment, especially the wildlife. There are some studies that are attempting to understand the contaminants in the food chain. My question is to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Can the Minister update and reassure this House that the GNWT is involved and has a clear role in the contaminants monitoring programs? Mahsi.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has a role in a number of areas. We have climate change. We have wildlife. We have other things that we're looking at, water, so I'm sure that would be something that we are looking into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: The barren land caribou in NWT has been significantly reduced. In the communities, we have challenges. The costs of goods are fairly high. Right now we're seeing the heavy beat of the mantra that we are in very dark economic times. What efforts are the Minister and his department making to continue to ensure that the traditional economy and the harvest of the traditional foods are promoted and enhanced?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is always willing to work with all Aboriginal governments and communities on the harvesting of traditional foods. We have a couple of programs that we use to assist the communities and the people and I'm sure we will continue to do that to assist the Members.

MR. NADLI: Earlier I asked my first question to the Minister, and again, I'll reiterate that question. Can the Minister reassure this House and the public that there are measurements and efforts being made by his department to ensure and reassure the public that the level of contaminants in the traditional foods that are consumed mostly by small communities is not at a level that the public should be alarmed about?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I'd like to reassure the Member that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will work with the Department of Health to make sure that the contaminants, if they're coming into the food system, will be addressed through both departments.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister to outline, for this side of the House and the public: how will his department lead in terms of the framework of ensuring that discussions on contaminants and work with communities? Mahsi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I will definitely be talking to the departments I related to this issue and we can get back to the Member on how we're going to proceed on that.

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

QUESTION 44-18(2):

AGRICULTURAL LAND AVAILABILITY

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my statement today, agriculture has become a significant growth sector in the NWT economy in the last few years. It also has the added benefit of reducing food cost by substituting imported food. More growth is possible, but one of the limiting factors is the availability of the land. My question for the Minister of Lands is what plans the government has to make more land available in the NWT for agriculture and food production. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We see that as a valuable opportunity to produce a lot of locally grown food across Northwest Territories. One of the things we would have to do is see the land claims, all land claims settle, so land might be made available for that. Also, we do our land use planning and we need to identify that. We have the Agricultural Strategy, which would help us identify some of the issues that we have to deal with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: What I heard is that land will not be available in some areas until all land claims are settled. I'm wondering how we can sustain the growth of the agriculture sector if there is going to be no additional land available for the production of food.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: What I said was that we would like to see all the land claims settled. That way, there might be more land available that is within their claims area. If it's not in their claims area, there are still opportunities to access lands that they could potentially use for agriculture. We have a lot of communities that have community gardens. I believe all 33 communities have community gardens. We have to continue to look at the options and try and promote and endorse the locally grown foods, and that would help the cost of living across the Northwest Territories.

MS. GREEN: I am still a little unclear. If I wanted to begin...

MR. SPEAKER: I'd like to remind Members to direct their questions through the Speaker, please.

MS. GREEN: I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker. My question for the Minister is: If somebody wanted to grow food that they would later sell at the successful Yellowknife Farmers Market, how would they obtain land outside of the city to do that?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Right now, we are doing some work on our land use sustainability. If there are lands that are identified outside city limits and it suits the purpose or it's for the purpose, then I would assume that they would put in an application. Again, I will have to confirm the actual process, and share it with the Members and committee, the actual process that they would have to go through, the conditions they might have to meet. I will commit to the Member and all Members that I will confirm all that information. I will be pleased to share it with them.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you for that commitment, Mr. Minister. My final question for the Minister is how decisions will be made about who gets access to the land for growing.

Hon. ROBERT MCLEOD: It would be application-based, and then each application will be looked at. Based on its merit, it will determine whether the application is approved or not, and the application process will go through the Department of Lands.

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

QUESTION 45-18(2):
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Member's statement, I highlighted some of the problems we face in regards to apprenticeships in the regional centres, and I imagine they are much worse in the smaller communities. I have had business owners and journeymen comment to me that the system is better putting up roadblocks than helping Northerners achieve success. I ask the Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment what his department is doing to specifically address the issues we face in regional centres and small communities, given that the current system is inadequate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are various ways that the department is working with our stakeholders to adjust the issue that the Member brought up. First of all, through Aurora College, we do offer trades technical training at Thebacha Campus. We also work with the Mobile Trades Training Unit in Aurora College up in Inuvik. As with Skills 4 Success Initiative that I mentioned in previous answers to questions earlier this week, through implementation programs, programs are being aligned with identified labour market needs. With that said, we also want to make sure that communities and regional centres and organizations also take some of the responsibility, and through that, we do have some regional training partnership committees that focus on some of these areas. We're looking at what they are bringing forward, and seeing how we can implement those areas. Mind you, the department is working with Public Works and Services, and the NWT Housing Corporation with apprenticeship programs as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: Given the frustrations that have been expressed by entrepreneurs and journeymen and the Chamber of Commerce, will the government commit to meaningfully consulting small- and medium-sized businesses in the regional centres as they improve existing programs and develop new programs?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The government is committed. We are a partner on the regional training committees that have a wide range of partners and key stakeholders that work with other GNWT departments, the Aurora College, divisional education committees, Aboriginal governments, business development corporations. So yes, we are committed because we do sit on these regional training partnerships, and almost every region in the Northwest Territories does have these regional training partnership committees, and we are still

committed to working with them to address some of the issues that the Member has brought up.

MR. SIMPSON: Just a comment: I look forward to working with the Minister on solving some of these issues, and I will be following up on the progress they are making on the floor of this House in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I will take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 46-18(2):
COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT RATES

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I would like to know if the Minister has reviewed the employment rates across NWT communities. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, this is my second term of the Legislative Assembly, and on a yearly basis we do review those unemployment rates. As I was answering questions earlier in the House, we are taking actions to address some of these unemployment rates throughout the Northwest Territories, in small communities, regional centres, and here in Yellowknife as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Just to be clear, I am talking about employment rates, not unemployment rates. Is there any sort of plan to increase employment rates in communities in Northwest Territories?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we are working with, as I mentioned earlier, the regional training partnerships committees. The department has also created five new positions for Employment Transition Officers that work within the communities to help people transition from unemployment to employment opportunities. That is in some of the regional centres throughout the Northwest Territories, and we also have career development officers that we are trying to get more involved into the schools while they are working with Income Assistance clients.

MR. BEAULIEU: I would like to ask the Minister if there is some sort of concentrated effort in communities that have the lowest employment rates.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: At the current time, we don't have a concentrated effort where some of the lowest employment rates are. We do have some opportunities coming up with the possibility of some

big infrastructure projects that this government might approve, and based on where those projects might be, we can focus on those areas, as well as support all regions in getting employment rates higher.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize the Minister is just starting on working with the employment rates, but I would like to just get a feel for the communities, what is coming, so I would like to ask the Minister what the next steps would be, in gauging people as it relates to the employment rates in small communities. Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We are going to be releasing a labour market information report next month. It's going to give guidance and direction in where we need to go. We are also looking at programs within the Aurora College system to address some of these issues based on what that report says, but also, our Skills 4 Success Framework and some of the other work that we are doing with the regional centres. I think in the next little while, as we get our mandates from this government moving forward, we will know which direction we are going to have to move forward in, hopefully, and look at increasing our employment rates throughout the Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 47-18(2):
LONG-TERM CARE COSTS

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Yesterday in the House the Minister said that there were a total of 259 individuals who would need long-term care beds in the next 10 years and he said that the cost of each bed was \$130,000 per year. But his total figure for that investment was \$200 million, so I didn't really follow the math on how he got to \$200 million. I wonder if he could explain that figure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarity, we know we need 259 beds by 2026, and based on our traditional procurement method, that takes you anywhere from \$800,000 to \$1.5 million per bed to build using traditional procurement, which is around \$200 million to build or provide those 259 beds. We do have an average of around \$130,000 per bed to operate beds, which works out to about \$33.5 million at today's dollar for

providing services for 259 beds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank to the Minister for that clarification. My question is: could we save on the building costs by repurposing Stanton Territorial Hospital, for example, as a long-term care facility for elders?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That's one of the suggestions that's been thrown out during the election and since the election. As I indicated yesterday, we're going to have to look outside of the box on this one. We're going to have to consider all opportunities for the construction and the provision of these 259 beds, so we're open to pretty much anything at this point. As I indicated yesterday, I'm in the process of writing a letter. I'll have it to committee this week to share that report with them. I'm also going to be seeking an opportunity to have a briefing with committee so that we can go through some of the details and we can start getting some input from Members, because this is a huge problem, in my mind, this is something we need to have a plan to deal with over the next 10 years, and given the sheer cost of this challenge in front of us, we're going to have to be creative, we're going to have to think outside the box. So absolutely, we're looking at all opportunities.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 9, written questions. Member for Frame Lake.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 1-18(2): VACANCIES ON CO-MANAGEMENT BOARDS

MR. O'REILLY: My questions are for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. Regarding the co-management boards governing the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, what is the Government of the Northwest Territories doing to ensure that all vacancies on the co-management boards are filled? Could the Minister provide background information on the current state of vacancies, including:

1. the current number of vacant positions on each of these boards;
2. how long each of these currently vacant positions has remained vacant;
3. the nominating authority for each of these vacant positions; and
4. which, if any, of these boards lack quorum owing to the vacancy of positions?

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to Commissioner's Opening Address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 10-18(2): ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FOR 2015

MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 99 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I hereby table the Annual Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Northwest Territories for 2015. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Member for Frame Lake.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 10-18(2): REFERRAL OF STANDING COMMITTEE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES AND PROCEDURES

MR. O'REILLY: I give notice that on Thursday, February 25, 2016 I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that this Assembly refer the issue of standing committee public engagement and transparency to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures to recommend a process that may be adopted by all standing committees of the 18th Legislative Assembly. And further, that the research and analysis include consultation with the public and a jurisdictional review. And furthermore, that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures report back to the House with its recommendations during the fall 2016 sitting.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion. Member for Yellowknife North.

MOTION 11-18(2): APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ADJUDICATION PANEL

MR. VANTHUYNE: I give notice that on Thursday, February 25, 2016 I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Mr. Adrian Wright be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for appointment as member of the Human Rights Adjudication Panel, effective immediately, for a term of four years.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MOTION 12-18(2):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO
FEBRUARY 29, 2016

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 25, 2016 I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on February 25, 2016 it shall be adjourned until Monday, February 29, 2016. And further, that any time prior to February 29, 2016, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 1-18(2):
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February 25, 2016 I will move that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019; Tabled Document 2-18(2), Interim Estimates 2016-2017; Tabled Document 3-18(2), Supplementary Expenditures No. 4, 2015-2016; Tabled Document 4-18(2), Supplementary Estimates Operation Expenditures No. 3, 2015-2016, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair. The committee wishes to continue the review of Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We will take a short recess and resume with the first item.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I call the Committee of the Whole back to order. We will continue discussing Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, as amended. We will continue where we left off yesterday. We will begin by discussing the section, "Priorities of the 18th Assembly." Premier McLeod, do you wish to invite any witnesses to the table?

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses to the table. Premier McLeod, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left, I have Penny Ballantyne, secretary to Cabinet, and to my right, Mike Aumond, secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Now we will continue where we left off yesterday discussing the document starting with the section, "Priorities of the 18th Assembly." Are there any comments or questions on this section? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the committee would like to go to the motions that we have section by section.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): No comments on this section. We will move to the section, "Economy, Environment and Climate Change." Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Are there any comments on the section? Mr. Blake.

COMMITTEE MOTION 2-18(2):
 TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
 MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
 ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING INCREASED
 EMPLOYMENT IN SMALL COMMUNITIES,
 CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, be amended on page 11 by inserting the words, "We will develop and implement the strategy to increase employment in the small communities." Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just briefly, I know a lot of good work has gone through the mandate, but I feel that we need to insert this section in here, because in the past we have developed some strategies to increase the employment in our small communities. In our last term it's actually gone up, I believe two per cent in my riding, which is great, but we need to aim higher, and I believe that inserting this, we will develop and implement the strategy to increase employment in our small communities as much needed. That's why I'm moving this forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Blake. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I support the motion. The idea of developing an employment strategy as part of our mandate I consider to be very important. I consider this to be probably the most important thing that could happen in the small communities that has an impact on the lives of the people in the small communities. Everybody realizes that with employment we have a lot of government social spending would be deferred, would be eliminated, essentially, so I'm feeling that jobs in small communities, the variety of jobs, I think that the small communities would be available to do. A lot of the increase, I believe, in this strategy could be done with some infrastructure spending by the government, among other things. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Are there any more comments to the motion? No more comments. I call upon Mr. Blake to conclude debate on this motion.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank my colleague for his huge support on this amendment. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will continue the discussion on the section, "Economy, Environment and Climate Change." Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 3-18(2):
 TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
 MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
 REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS,
 CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a motion I'd like to make to amend a document. I move Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, be amended on page 11 by deleting the words "We will ensure that residents are informed about the territories' resource development options, including the potential benefits and risks associated with different options" and inserting the words "We will ensure that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated with resource development, including hydraulic fracturing." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to speak briefly about this change. What it really does is ensure that our residents are not just informed but they actually have meaningful opportunities to participate in assessing the risks and benefits of resource development. It's important to note that we did include the words "hydraulic fracturing" in here. This is not to say that Members are necessarily in favour or against it. It's ensuring that our citizens have an opportunity to express their views and participate in assessments of that sort of activity if and when it is to take place. The other reason for including hydraulic fracturing in the motion is that this was a major piece of unfinished business from the last Assembly. There was quite a large consultation process to look at filing regulations for hydraulic fracturing and it essentially was left unfinished and left for this Assembly to try to deal with.

Certainly, this was a major issue that was raised during the election by a number of residents in my own riding. They felt that it was an unfinished piece of business. I think we need make sure that's something that's dealt with in this Assembly, to look at when and where and how and whether we

actually carry out hydraulic fracturing. Those are some of the reasons for proposing this particular motion. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Thank you, committee.

---Carried

We will now continue to consider the details for the section, "Economy, Environment, and Climate Change."

COMMITTEE MOTION 4-18(2):
 Tabled Document 1-18(2): PROPOSED
 MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
 REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING THE
 NORTHERN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY,
 CARRIED

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Chair, I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, be amended on page 12 by deleting the words "We will help to promote products manufactured in the NWT" and inserting the words "We will develop a northern manufacturing strategy in collaboration with industry and the NWT's Manufacturer's Association to expand the manufacturing sector, identify potential areas of growth, promote, and market products manufactured in the NWT and aid in the professional and technological advancement of the industry."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to speak strongly in support of this motion. It clarifies exactly how our government will help to promote products with some clarity and certainty, and gives industry an idea of the role they will play in this process. Kam Lake is home to many manufacturing businesses in the Northwest Territories, and they're all keenly interested in finding ways that the government can help support their businesses. It is definitely a growth industry. It is a value-added industry for the Northwest Territories. It deserves the full support of this House and I encourage all my colleagues to vote in favour in support of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The manufacturing sector in the NWT has been showing strong growth, averaging 26 per cent a year. If this government is serious about diversifying our economy, this is the sector we should be focusing on. It generates jobs, creates opportunities for apprenticeships and builds capacity. If manufactured products can be purchased locally that means money stays in the territory instead of flowing south. Right now, we have the NWT Manufactured Products Policy which is well-meaning, but inadequate. I've had discussions with manufacturers in Hay River and Yellowknife and they've identified persistent issues with the policy that runs across departments and hinders growth and employment. There is a need for a focused government-wide approach to this growing sector and for that reason I move this motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I too heartily support this motion. This is a growing area of our economy and one which may be more sustainable than some of the non-renewable resource development that we've had historically. I heartily support this attempt at diversification and hope that it will have success in this House. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion. Mr. McLeod, our honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our government is committed to supporting the manufacturing sector in the Northwest Territories through the Northwest Territories Manufactured Products Policy, and has developed and is implementing a marketing plan to assist in promotion of this sector. A key strategy in the marketing plan is to familiarize customers of the capabilities and products produced by northern manufacturers. The NWT Manufactured Products Association had their first meeting last week in Hay River. They indicated that they wanted to work with the government on practical steps such as implementing a marketing plan, and the government will be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Question has been called. I will now call upon Mr. Simpson if he wishes to conclude the debate on the motion.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I conclude the debate.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We'll now continue to consider the details for the section, "Economy, Environment, and Climate Change."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Thompson.

COMMITTEE MOTION 5-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING PUBLIC
TOURISM FACILITIES,
CARRIED

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a motion that I would like to make a change to the mandate. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, be amended on page 12 by deleting the words "We will provide high quality public tourism facilities by developing a plan to invest in the modernization of our parks infrastructure and signage, as well as extending our tourism opportunities by building new parks such as Doi'Toh Territorial Park in the Sahtu region" and insert the words "We will provide high quality public tourism facilities by modernizing our parks infrastructure and signage, erecting emergency shelters along remote highways, and expand tourism options by building new parks such as Doi'Toh Territorial Park in the Sahtu region." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Thompson

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this change to the mandate. When we talk about emergency shelters, they are needed in some of the territories' remote highways and winter roads. It was a big concern in my riding. It's a safety issue. People could die from exposure after breaking down on the highways. There have been comments that cell service has improved in the Northwest Territories. However, in some of the remote highways in the Territories the cell service does not work. Travellers travel vast distances in extreme weather conditions. Cabinet must understand the risk and hazards people face travelling in and out of our small remote communities, including people who bring in goods and provide services. Emergency shelters should be strategically located where most needed. Emergency shelters need not be expensive or fancy, just effective. This is cheap

insurance. Maintenance is minimal, but a little bit is necessary.

Cultural issues: Northern people have a tradition of helping those who break down on the land and along our roads. This would help us do those things. Making our highways safer will ultimately increase tourism and travel in our territory. Some of these remote highways are not paved or chip-sealed like the one coming to Yellowknife and Hay River. We need to be respectful of this and ensure we provide a safe place for people, especially on the gravel highways. As well, when you deal with transportation and travelling on these remote highways sometimes you don't see people for long periods of time. This is the reason I'm asking to have this added into it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. To the motion. Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Mr. Chair, I also support this motion and want to share some of the experiences. As you know, the Sahtu region is remote. It is only accessible in the wintertime. It is only accessible by cold weather travel over compacted snow. This system, North Wrigley, totals 765 kilometres, and you can imagine yourself isolated without access. In most cases, the average traveller doesn't have cell communication, because they can't afford a cell package or a satellite package, so we've had numerous close calls, close instances, and even some cases where tragic death has occurred. These shelters do play a vital support to the travellers in case of an accident or incident with the vehicles, and it has happened. You can imagine yourself in this remote area travelling and encountering motor problems. You will be very happy to know that you just passed a shelter and you can walk back to that shelter and get heat and comfort. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. To the motion. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our territory is endowed with scenic territorial parks in all its five regions. The government has committed to providing quality public tourism facilities at territorial parks throughout the Northwest Territories. These parks are great assets for tourism and many tourists make use of the services and facilities provided at these parks. Currently, we maintain 35 territorial parks including 14 wayside or day-use areas which are established to provide for the enjoyment or convenience of the travelling public. Many of our wayside parks are situated around areas of scenic value or points of interest along highways. We continue to improve the territorial parks experience and annually invest funds to maintain and/or upgrade facilities. The government does not currently have plans to

establish any new wayside parks or build any additional buildings and territorial wayside parks due to little demand, nor is there O and M to service existing wayside parks infrastructure. Our tourism road traffic occurs predominantly during the summer months. The large majority of users during the winter months are residents or commercial traffic, not tourists travelling to the Northwest Territories.

As a government, we are committed to improving and modernizing our parks infrastructure and we'll continue to invest in maintaining existing parks. To help ensure the safety of the travelling public, the Department of Transportation of the Government of the Northwest Territories has added additional pull-outs along the highway system and made improvements to existing pull-out areas.

These pull-outs allow travellers to rest, stop for personal health issues, and enjoy their surroundings safely. The department constructs and maintains pull-outs with the intention of having one major rest area every one 150 kilometres along the highway network and a pull-out every 50 kilometres. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is responsible for wayside parks, which are established to provide for the enjoyment or convenience of the travelling public and around scenic points of interest. The departments do not have any plans to build any emergency shelters along highways due to the costs of construction and associated ongoing O and M requirements, as well as the limited demand for shelters. In the past, we have had emergency shelters and it promoted vandalism and other misuse of the shelters so Mr. Chair, I would like to move an amendment to the committee motion. If I could read it out, I will proceed to do so.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Proceed.

MOTION TO AMEND COMMITTEE MOTION 5-18(2),
DEFEATED

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That Committee Motion 5-18(2) be amended by deleting the words "erecting emergency shelters along remote highways". Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): To the amendment of Committee Motion 5-18(2). The motion to amend Committee Motion 5-18(2) is in order. It is being distributed. The motion to amend is in order. To the motion to amend Committee Motion 5-18(2).

HON. BOB MCLEOD: About some of the rationale for moving this amendment, and we have had experiences with our toilet facilities and also in the past, as I mentioned, with emergency shelters, so

we have those kinds of concerns, Mr. Chair. I would also call for a recorded vote on the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): To the motion to amend. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, I am going to be voting against this amendment. As a resident of Yellowknife, I have travelled a number of the highways in various seasons for work purposes, holidays, and so on, and certainly, our family has a much better piece of mind travelling along those roads and seeing emergency shelters, knowing that if we ever had to use them, they were actually there and available. It's not just folks from the small communities, but even for people from Yellowknife, it's created, I think, a better sense of safety and peace of mind knowing that those sort of facilities are there, so I am going to be voting against this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. If there are no further comments, I will now put the amendment to the motion to a vote.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert, Mr. Moses, Ms. Cochrane, Mr. Abernethy.

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

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Blake, Mr. McNeely, Mr. Testart, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson, Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Vanthuyne.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote are seven in favour, ten opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is defeated. We will now go back to Committee Motion 5-18(2). To the motion. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I too would like a recorded vote as well, please.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Thompson, Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Blake, Mr. McNeely, Mr. Testart, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Beaulieu.

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

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Moses, Ms. Cochrane, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote are ten in favour, seven opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will continue our discussion of the section, "Economy, Environment, and Climate Change." Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 6-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
MANAGEMENT OF CONTAMINATED SITES,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a further motion I would like to bring forward to change the mandate. I move that that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, be amended on page 13 by deleting the words "develop an integrated comprehensive approach to the management of contaminated sites include prioritizing, sharing of responsibility with other governments, collaboration with other governments, and monitoring," and inserting the words "develop an integrated comprehensive approach to the management of contaminated sites including prioritizing, sharing of responsibility in collaboration with other governments, monitoring, and a sound financial security system to prevent public liabilities." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The important addition here is the words at the end to focus some attention on not just managing contaminated sites, but actually preventing them from happening in the first place. That's really the purpose of financial security system. Earlier today in my Member's statement and through questions, I raised a number of issues around the importance of

this, and what happens if we don't manage our land and water carefully. We can incur huge liabilities that can cripple us financially. We don't have nearly the room of the federal government to absorb those sorts of costs, so fine for us to manage sites, but let's make sure they don't happen in the first place. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I think we need to keep in mind with all of this here going on, that there are other Aboriginal governments of the Northwest Territories that we have to consider when looking at mineral claim stakes, oil and gas developments. I'm kind of leery about the wording of this as it may scare away business opportunities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am aware that the Member who spoke previously may have some concerns around this, but I think the idea here is that we would, of course, as a government actually work collaboratively with Aboriginal governments and co-management bodies to ensure that we do have a sound financial security system. I hope that provides some assurances. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In a sense, I agree with the Member for Frame Lake, but then again we spoke earlier on this as well too and I had mentioned that the Member may be carrying baggage from five or 10 years down the road so we need to look forward, making sure that we're okay and not making decisions from the past today. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. To the motion, Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I take the point of the Member for Nunakput, that some of our most contaminated sites were established at a time when environmental regulation was not as rigorous as it is today. Having said that, however, there are still a number of sites that are being established now that are not fully secured financially against future liability, and given the cost of operating in the North and the cost of remediating contaminated sites often in remote places, it's essential that we have the means to provide clean up in the event of the company leaving or going bankrupt. I do not believe that this will be a disincentive to invest in the Northwest Territories, because I think that sound

financial security is required everywhere that mining takes place. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks to both Members from Yellowknife for their comments. In my region there are mineral claim stakes that are outstanding and so we negotiate fair agreements with exploration companies. I believe that what we have in place is sound, and I also believe that moving ahead with negotiations for other sites, I think we have a good system in place that will still be effective in negotiating impact and benefit agreements and other agreements with exploration companies.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. I'm going to call on the mover of the motion to conclude debate. I will allow another comment from Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to make one more reply to Mr. Nakimayak. The mineral staking and the negotiation of impact and benefit agreements is at the other end of the spectrum in mining development: It's the front end. What we're talking about here is the back end. When the ore is done and the mine is closed, we're talking about what happens next, so there's no reason that this policy would stand in the way of anyone staking a claim, or in fact developing a mine if the claim was proven to be beneficial. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. I call on the mover to close debate.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't think I have anything further to add at this point. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

We will continue our discussion on the "Economy, Environment, and Climate Change" section. Are there any comments? Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 7-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a further motion to amend this section of the mandate, if I may. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, be amended on page 13 by deleting the words "We will develop options for the implementation of the next five-year action plan for the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program." and inserting the words "We will support the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, CIMP, and respond to recommendations in the Northwest Territories environmental audit for improved environmental management." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What this change is all about is to I think just shift the focus a little bit, not just from developing a five-year action plan for the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, but supporting the program as a whole. It's part 6 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. This was part of the integrated resource management system that was negotiated through constitutionally entrenched land claims agreements to make sure that we understand what the health of our ecosystems is, but also to look at how the different components of that integrated environmental management system are working together. As part of the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program or part 6 of the act, there's also a Northwest Territories environmental audit. As I said earlier, those different parts of the integrated system work together and look at the health of our ecosystems.

The environmental audit is carried out every five years. It's a very, very important part of how we take care of our environment and our lands and waters, and there is an arrangement with the Inuvialuit to work with the Inuvialuit Regional Council so that they can be part of the environmental audit as well. That's the mechanism that we should view any changes through for the environmental management system. They should really be focused through the audit, and a very important part of that audit is to make sure that our territorial government actually responds to the audit and that folks are all working together. I think this is a constructive change and I look forward to support from the Members on the other side. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Seeing no more comments, I call upon Mr. O'Reilly to conclude debate on the motion.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have nothing further to add.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I call for a vote.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

We will continue our discussion of the "Economy, Environment, and Climate Change" section. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To be fair to the Members on the other side, we wanted to give them a heads-up that there's a couple more items that we would like to bring back perhaps as early as tomorrow in Committee of the Whole for this section. They would deal with support for small business and looking at how to review the Heritage Fund Act. We'll bring those forward as motions tomorrow for the consideration of Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Are there any more comments on this section? Seeing no more comments, does the committee agree that we move on to the section, "Education, Training, and Youth Development"? We'll now open discussion on the section, "Education, Training, and Youth Development." Questions? Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 8-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING
CULTURAL PROGRAMMING AND OFFICIAL
LANGUAGES,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do have a committee motion that I wanted to bring forward. With that, I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, be amended on page 17 by deleting the words "Increasing cultural programming and education and revitalizing Aboriginal languages" and inserting the words "Increasing cultural programming and education, revitalizing Aboriginal languages and promoting use of official languages."

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think this motion is essential in terms of the preservation and enhancement of the Aboriginal languages, not only in that respect, but also the culture that's also related to the language and culture of the Indigenous people of the NWT. You know, there's hand games that are growing in popularity among the communities of Denendeh. We just had one major one in Deline, and a few that have been organized before spring arrives. Then of course, in the summertime we're going to see more likely more hand games down the valley, and equally so our drum dances that are hosted in communities as well. It's important that we share those cultural practices with our youth, and more importantly, ensuring that our languages are preserved in that manner too. With that, I speak in favour of this motion. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Any more comments or questions on 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

We'll now continue on our discussion. I have the "Education, Training, and Youth Development" section. Are there any comments or questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 9-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 1-18(2): PROPOSED
MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019,
ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING FRENCH
LANGUAGE EDUCATION,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, I believe I have another motion here to amend the mandate document. I move that Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019, be amended on page 18 by inserting the words "We will work collaboratively with the NWT's francophone community to support French language education." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, I do want to recognize the efforts of the new Minister of Education, Culture

and Employment, and I know that he has spoken in the House about how the new government is working more collaboratively with the francophone community in terms of the ministerial directive. I know that it's been raised in the House here about the importance of working with local education authorities collaboratively as well. This is an important motion, I know, for myself and my riding as Ecole Allain St-Cyr is in my riding, and I know that they are working with the new Minister to address francophone education. I think having this in our mandate is a good thing and will provide some support for the Minister's ongoing activities in this area. So once again, I do want to thank the Minister for his efforts. Sometimes I don't always say nice things about the other side of the House, but certainly I do want to recognize the efforts of the Minister, and all the Ministers, but in this case I think it's something I wanted to point out in particular. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: [English translation not provided] I'm very proud to have a francophone background in my own heritage and to have attended immersion French language schooling in the Northwest Territories. I think we have a lot of work to do on this issue. Members have spoken about this already in the short life of this Assembly and it's something we have to continue to support and to push forward on. The francophone community call themselves "les tenois," which is a wonderful way to say who we are as people from the Northwest Territories, much better than the cumbersome Northwest Terronian that exists in English. They're proud members of our community and an important part of history and our heritage, and supporting French language education is a continuance of that heritage. I'm very pleased to speak in support of this motion. Merci.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Are there any more comments to the motion? To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't want to belabour this, but I also have a personal connection with this as I am quarter French Canadian. [English translation not provided.] I'll try to speak a little bit of French occasionally in this House, but also, my children did go through Ecole Allain St-Cyr. They did not have access to a gym and special classrooms, but I'm hoping that we can put that sort of stuff behind us and move forward in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration with the francophone community here in the Northwest Territories. Merci.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. We will put this to a vote. To the motion.

All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We'll continue our discussion of "Education, Training and Youth Development." Are there any more comments on this section? Mr. Beaulieu,

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): There's a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. I would like to thank the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort them out of the Chamber.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: May I have the report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Hay River North.

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of Government of Northwest Territories 2016-2019. I would like to report progress with eight motions adopted. I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 22, Third reading of bills. Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions

5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 1-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories
 - Tabled Document 2-18(2), Interim Estimates, 2016-2017
 - Tabled Document 3-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2015-2016
 - Tabled Document 4-18(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2015-2016
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The House is adjourned until Wednesday, February 24 at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

