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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Thursday, June 2, 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. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

Ministers' Statements

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Housing, NWT Housing Corporation.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 31-18(2):
FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN NORTHERN
HOUSING

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to work in partnership with other orders of government to address affordable housing requirements. As Members already know, our territory has housing needs well beyond those of the rest of Canada, especially in our rural and remote communities. The Northwest Territories has the second highest level of core housing need in the country at 20 per cent while the national average is 12.5 per cent. To address this disparity, the Northwest Territories requires a long term, sustainable, and predictable partnership with the federal government. We have been working closely with the other two northern territories to encourage the federal government to recognize the fiscal challenges associated with housing our people and take appropriate action. I would like to report that this tri-territorial engagement is starting to bear fruit. In budget 2016, the federal government announced \$35.4 million in funding for affordable housing for the Northwest Territories to be delivered over the next two years. The federal government's housing priority area include funding for seniors, renovation and retrofit of social housing, victims of family violence, northern housing, and Inuit housing. This includes \$15 million for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region over the next two years.

For fiscal year 2016-17, the federal allocation to the Northwest Territories is \$16.6 million. Priorities in this first year will see \$7.9 million spent on public housing replacement, \$3 million on repair and

renovation of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation rental housing, \$1.2 million on single units to address small community homelessness, \$750,000 for demolition of surplus housing, another \$750,000 on repair support for third-party social housing providers, \$600,000 on homeownership repair, \$600,000 on semi-independent housing-first units within emergency shelters and \$316,000 for repairing family violence shelters. Some of the funding will also be used for minor capital repairs, fuel, and hot water tank replacements. This federal funding enhances programming already underway by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. In addition to federal funding, the Government of the Northwest Territories planned contribution for this year is \$82 million to support the operation of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

We are pleased with the federal investment and thank them for demonstrating renewed commitment to housing for Northerners, but federal funding for the operation of public housing is still declining. Public housing supports stable housing for two out of every five households in our rural and remote communities, and Canada still has a role to play. We need to see progress from them on solutions around the sustainability of public housing. The next phase of federal engagement is the development of a National Housing Strategy. In support of that, I will be attending a federal-provincial-territorial Ministers responsible for Housing meeting at the end of this month. I look forward to working in partnership with the other provinces, territories, and federal government to develop a flexible northern housing strategy, one that has a strong northern component, so that provinces and territories can address the gaps and strengthen the housing continuum in their respective jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 32-18(2):
FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING
PROGRAMS FOR NWT COMMUNITY
GOVERNMENT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in the mandate to pursue new federal funding for the

enhancement of community government infrastructure. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, MACA, is working collaboratively with both the federal and community governments to fulfill that commitment through various funding programs, including the Gas Tax Agreement and the New Building Canada Plan. Funding leveraged through these programs is helping to decrease the community public infrastructure deficit in communities across our territory. The Government of the Northwest Territories plays an important role in supporting NWT community governments as they access available federal funding programs. Most federal funding programs require that eligible projects be cost-shared. MACA provides \$28 million through the Community Public Infrastructure and has protected that funding in the budget process. Community governments can use that money to leverage funds available through federal infrastructure programs.

The first of the federal programs I refer to is the Gas Tax program. Made permanent through federal legislation in 2012, the federal Gas Tax program will provide \$15.3 million to NWT community governments in 2016-17. When this program was made permanent, the federal government expanded the list of eligible project types and the program became a true infrastructure program, instead of being focused on specific objectives and types of infrastructure. The funding available through the Gas Tax program is provided to NWT community governments through a base-plus formula approach, and community governments have the flexibility to identify priority projects through their capital plan and then invest Gas Tax funding in identified projects. Community governments will tell you that the Gas Tax program is often considered their favourite federal funding program due to the flexibility in the design of the program.

The second federal program, available to community governments until 2022, is the Small Communities Fund, or SCF, which is part of the New Building Canada Plan Provincial Territorial Infrastructure Component. Over the next six years, NWT community governments will have access to \$38.7 million in federal money to support most types of community public infrastructure, allocated to each community using a base-plus formula approach. Fifteen projects approved for funding under the program were announced in March of 2016. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is working with the remaining community governments to identify and obtain approval on projects for those communities. Construction must be completed on projects approved under this program by December 2022.

Canada announced the creation of two additional funding programs in its 2016 budget: The Public Transit Fund and Clean Water and Wastewater Fund. The Public Transit Fund includes an allocation of \$320,000 to support public transit infrastructure in the Northwest Territories; and the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund provides an investment in water and wastewater infrastructure of \$51.7 million. Funding available through these programs must be spent by March 2019. MACA is currently working with the NWT community governments to identify projects for these two funding programs and will facilitate the application and approval process with Canada. Similar to projects funded under the SCF program, projects under the Public Transit and Clean Water and Wastewater funding programs require a minimum investment of 25 per cent of total project cost by the community government, drawn from public infrastructure funding provided to communities by MACA or own-source revenues. Given the short timeframe for this program and the limited types of infrastructure that the program can be used for, MACA will issue a call for funding applications in the coming weeks and support community governments through Canada's application and approval process. As with other funding programs, approval must be obtained from Canada before community governments can begin construction. In 2014, MACA undertook an exercise to identify the municipal funding needed for NWT community governments. Using the information on the replacement need for all core infrastructure in NWT communities, MACA identified an annual deficit of \$38 million needed to address replacement and required upgrades to core community government infrastructure. The good news is that the federal government programs I have been talking about will help to reduce that community government's infrastructure deficit across the territory. Applying the funding through the federal Gas Tax program will reduce that deficit to \$23 million per year. After applying the funding available through the other three funding programs, the annual infrastructure deficit is reduced to \$14 million per year over the next ten years. Although there is still a gap that needs to be addressed, the impact of federal infrastructure funding is significant. On behalf of the NWT community governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories, we wish to acknowledge the significant contribution of the federal government towards community infrastructure in the North which helps support MACA's goal of safe, healthy, and vibrant communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 33-18(2):
HAY RIVER HARBOUR RESTORATION

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in the mandate to strengthen connections with public and private sector partners to improve critical transportation infrastructure in our territory. Earlier this year, a workshop was held with key stakeholders to discuss how to restore safe and effective access to the Hay River Harbour. The Hay River Harbour is NWT's marine gateway, providing services to residents and businesses up and down the Mackenzie River into the High Arctic. The port's strategic location, with connections to CN Rail's Meander subdivision and the public highway system positions it as a portal between the Arctic coast and southern Canada. From there, marine resupply operations are undertaken for communities and industries, contributing to lowering costs of living and doing business in the territory. The harbour is also important to the NWT's commercial fishing industry on Great Slave Lake, which has the potential to help diversify the NWT economy and increase locally produced food. Canadian Coast Guard operations, RCMP, and other federal agencies also make use of this port, providing an important aid to navigation and marine safety. The Department of Transportation's primary role in the Hay River Harbour restoration project has been to advance and facilitate discussions between the government partners and stakeholder groups for improved marine facilities within the NWT. Key stakeholders, including several federal government agencies and private sector companies, met in Hay River on April 12th and 13th. The meeting provided user groups with a forum for discussing challenges and technical matters regarding future restoration efforts and the development of an effective, long-term harbour restoration strategy by the fall of 2016. The immediate goal of this strategy will be to address the challenges posed by the buildup of sediment restricting access into the harbour. Further steps include developing a sustainable maintenance plan as part of the restoration strategy, to ensure the harbour's full and unimpeded operational capacity in the future. Overall, this strategy is expected to have significant positive impacts on communities located up and down the Mackenzie River.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform you that the working group established during the workshop is already reporting progress. The working group is being led by the Harbour Authority, ensuring that those closest to the issue are directing efforts. In early May, a military surveillance aircraft recorded imagery over the harbour and the East Channel entrance. As well, the Canadian Coast Guard has announced that it will start sounding operations in the Hay River Harbour in June. All data acquired

will be used to support the technical requirements of this project, which could see initial dredging work take place sometime in 2017. Identifying funding sources for the dredging plan remains an important project component. Funding for dredging activities is a federal responsibility and there have been positive indications from Canada that resources may become available in support of restoration of the Hay River Harbour. The February 2016 Canada Transportation Act Review report recommended a renewed commitment for federal funds to support dredging in Hay River and marine infrastructure in the NWT. The report followed a few months after the review panel held an engagement session in Yellowknife and was taken on a tour of the port of Hay River to see the issues in the harbour first-hand. This summer, the federal government will further discuss the report's findings with stakeholders. In addition to this report, the 2016-17 federal budget identified \$149 million in investment to revitalize small craft harbours across the country. The Department of Transportation will stay engaged with the federal government for more details on funding such projects. We are committed in working with all stakeholders to develop an effective and efficient long-term solution to ensure the restoration of the Hay River Harbour for the safety and well-being of all Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Members' statement. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES FOR WHATI

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently, the GNWT's Department of Transportation applied for permits to build an all-season road to Whati. The proposed 94-kilometre road will connect the community of 500 people with Highway No. 3 and the NWT road system and it will stop within 50 kilometres of a poly-metallic deposit owned by Fortune Minerals that may one day become a mine. Still, Fortune Minerals needs to raise \$589 million to make that dream come true, and its stock is trading for pennies a share.

The hitch is that the GNWT doesn't have the money to spend on the road to Whati or any other road. Hence, the cuts announced in yesterday's budget aimed at creating an operating surplus over the next four years of \$150 million, which in turn which may be leveraged by matching federal funds and/or borrowing. But is a road what Whati needs most right now? There are several indicators that this piece of infrastructure is not their most urgent priority. First, take a look at housing. According to

GNWT's Housing Survey from 2014, Whati has the greatest need for housing, second only to Gameti. The survey shows that 45 per cent of housing in Whati is inadequate, meaning it lacks one or all of the following: running water, an indoor toilet, bathing and washing facilities, or it needs major repairs. An additional 24 per cent of housing is unsuitable, meaning that it does not have enough bedrooms for the number of people who live in the home. CBC News recently reported on a Whati woman who lives in a house with no running water and no toilet. Spring runoff is followed by the growth of mould under the house, and the smell contributes to the woman's health challenges. Her doctor has appealed to the NWT Housing Corporation for a house that is adequately heated, free of mould, and has hot and cold running water, but there isn't a house available to her for various reasons. If we take that \$150 million the Minister is trying to acquire as an operating surplus and divide it by each of the people in Whati, they would each have \$300,000 to spend. That money would buy a lot of housing, obviously, but that is not what the government has in mind. When the time comes, I will have questions for the Minister of Finance about how the decision was made to prioritize the road to Whati. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I stand before this Chamber and our colleagues to speak about something that is very important: community capacity building, especially in the smaller communities in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, if you talk to people and ask them what it means to them, you could get hundreds if not thousands of variations of the definition. Today I would like share with you one that resonates with me. Community capacity building is a concept approach to social and personal development that focuses on understanding the obstacles that inhibits people, governments, and non-government organizations from realizing their development goals while enhancing the ability that will allow them to achieve measurable and sustainable results. Mr. Speaker, what does this mean? Well to me, it is the process by which people, organizations, society systematically stimulates and develops their capacity over time to achieve social and economic goals, including through improvement of knowledge, skills, systems, and institutions with a wider social and cultural enabling environment. Community capacity building is much more than training. It includes things such as human resource development, organizational development, just to name a few. Community capacity is all about

developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, and processes and resources that communities need to survive, adapting to change in needs of their population that is served and thrives in the world. Capacity building is a process of change. People and community capacity change over time. A focus on what development policies and investments work best to strengthen the abilities, skills, and knowledge based upon cannot be on one-off interventions. There can be short-term results, and often in crisis situations like co-management arrangements there is a need for such. But even after short-term capacity gains such as getting the community out of fiscal situations, the community must be supported by sustained resources and political commitment to yield longer-term results, truly impact on existing capacities. Capacity building is about the who, how and where decisions are made, management takes place, services are delivered, and results are monitored and evaluated. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. However, in saying this, the government cannot just say here you go. It needs to do the job to ensure we prepare them to do the job. Today, Mr. Speaker, later on I will have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR MINING SECTOR

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is about our support of a crucial sector of our economy, the resource sector, in particular, the mining sector. Mr. Speaker, in the past couple of decades, the northern economy has diversified in many ways. That's positive, and we have a way to go in continuing that work. Not long ago, there were few choices for major economic activity. Beyond the traditional economy, there was government and the mines. The next big hope was oil and gas. Northerners became big supporters, counting on real economic growth. Hopes of a resource-rich northern Texas of sorts have come and gone over the generations. Now, world oil prices are slumping, climate change is a reality, and green energy is emerging. It's hard to imagine how major oil and gas development may even become a reality. Today, there are other success stories: small business, creative arts and tourism, and that's all good. It's important to seek new and diverse ways to generate wealth. That's the way to build a solid foundation for our younger generations, new Northerners, and frankly, our future. We should not

forget one of the foundations of our economy, mining and exploration. Mr. Speaker, the mining sector has been central to the development of our economy. Mining provides diverse returns, not only jobs, but training, secondary spending, and taxes and royalties to public and Aboriginal governments. In turn, they can develop programs and services to support and empower their communities. My colleague just spoke earlier about capacity building. That is what this is about. Many of the NWT's current mines are maturing, and exploration is on the decline. This is a worrisome sign for the future of this sector and to our GDP. This provides challenges we must face during the life of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I believe a successful mining sector can generate wealth for our territory, while maintaining a good and responsible environmental stewardship. The government can take many steps to improve the climate for exploration and mining development. It's time we invite the world to see what we can offer, and that is world class resources. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of ITI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT TARGETS IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, creating jobs for northern residents and Aboriginal employees is a major part of the Government of the Northwest Territories socio-economic agreements with the three diamond mines. People who live in the areas most impacted by the mines are a part of the approval process and were a part of the approval process for their construction. These mines are on their traditional territory. Mr. Speaker, under these agreements, the diamond mines committed to build a workforce that was made up with about half northern Aboriginal people. These agreements also include workforce development and skill training programs to ensure our people had the best opportunity for successful employment at the diamond mines. But now, after nearly 20 years of operation, the mines' employment rates are consistently below target. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present the situation as the community members see it. Mr. Speaker, people in my riding feel that they are not given a fair chance on employment when it comes down to getting jobs. The diamonds quickly discontinued employment if one of the rules have not been followed as opposed to working with the employees to see what can be done to continue employment. Most people that have gone through feel that they were not treated fairly compared to others who had worked there. Mr. Speaker, I am not privy to the details. However,

many ex-miners have told me their story. I encourage the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to work with the mines on their employment statistics and hold the mines accountable for the targets in the socio-economic agreements. We also need to ensure that company policies are consistently applied for all workers, regardless of who they are, where they come from, and how long they have been there.

Personally, I have talked to one of the diamond mines that employ people and felt very good about the discussion. Therefore, I feel that the mines are willing to discuss strategies that could increase their numbers. The diamond mines are our main source of economic activity right now. We need to do all we can to ensure that the jobs stay in the North and that the mines benefit all Northerners. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR HOUSING PROJECTS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to talk about the challenges some residents face when they try to access housing programs for home ownership, repairs, and renovations. This is no small issue. Housing adequacy is one of the biggest obstacles facing residents in our small communities. Right now, the PATH program helps NWT residents who want to own their own home. The amount of money you can access depends on where you live, as well as your income. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the Housing Corporation recognizes the differences in cost of living across the NWT, but the problem is that these rules have not kept up with the times or the rising cost of living in our small communities. This means residents can get trapped in limbo, Mr. Speaker. They don't have enough money to pay for the work their homes need, but they have too much income to get the help they need from the housing programs that are supposed to support them. This is a real problem in communities where renovating your home can easily cost \$30,000 to \$50,000, if not more. Even families with two parents will find their income eaten up pretty fast when they have to deal with bringing in supplies and finding skilled contractors on top of just getting the work done. These same issues come up with residents trying to access the CARE program for housing repairs. The NWT Housing Corporation has already done great work on making their programs more accessible to Northerners who need them. I know that factors like income level, family size, and construction costs are being considered. But Mr. Speaker, there's still work that needs to be done. I'd like to see these rules reviewed, so that we can be sure that access

to housing programs is better matched to the needs of individual communities, and that income thresholds don't exclude people in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll have questions later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD VACANCIES

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. On February 23, 2016 I asked the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations a number of written questions about vacancies on NWT co-management boards. Earlier this week, partial answers were tabled in this House. There were some shocking revelations. Co-management boards are institutions of public government that carry out legislated duties related to land use planning, environmental assessment, land and water use, and wildlife management. These boards are part of constitutionally protected land rights agreements that were negotiated among Aboriginal, federal, and territorial governments. These boards play a crucial role in how we take care of our land, water, and wildlife, and work with communities to ensure we protect our environment. They ensure resource development does not take opportunities away from future generations. While Aboriginal governments and the GNWT generally nominate people to these boards, most of the appointments are made by the federal government. Unfortunately, these appointments often take too long and have become politicized in some cases.

The response I received reveals that two boards are now in a position where there is no quorum and they cannot legally make decisions or carry out their important work. This includes the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board that is responsible for assessing larger projects and projects where public concern is an issue. How can we have an effective integrated resource management system when boards do not have the legal ability to make decisions? Of the 106 positions on the 14 co-management boards in the Northwest Territories, 24 positions are vacant. Some of these positions have been unfilled for as long as five and a half years. How can a position on a co-management board go unfulfilled for five and a half years? I was pleased to see that only four of the 24 positions are GNWT nominees and that names to fill those positions have been submitted to the federal government. This would seem to indicate that GNWT is not the problem, but are we part of the solution? The GNWT maintains a public board appointments section on the Department of Executive website. This is a helpful resource, but it is really difficult to determine when positions

actually open up on the boards. It would be much more helpful to have a function that shows which positions are open or ending soon and how long vacancies have been unfilled. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In February, I asked what the Minister is doing to get vacancies to the co-management boards filled. This part of my questions did not get an answer and I will be pursuing that with the Minister later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to use this opportunity to talk about the NWT Track and Field Championships. For 26 years, Hay River has been hosting this exciting event. Last night, I had the honour of attending the opening ceremonies. I want to thank the Members who joined Minister Schumann and me in our home town for the ceremony, including you, Mr. Speaker, Premier McLeod, Minister Moses, Minister Cochrane, the MLA for Nahendeh Mr. Shane Thompson, and the MLA for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli. Track and Field Championships are an amazing event. Hay River's population grows by 25 per cent over the three days. More than 800 out-of-town athletes from 18 communities, from Fort Smith to Inuvik and many points in between, pour into Hay River. In all, there are over 1,000 athletes participating this year. I always loved participating in the Track and Field Championships, and honestly I'm a little envious of the athletes right now who are busy making life-long memories and new friends. Golden memories. I must say, though, that the real heroes of the event are the volunteers. Just imagine what it takes to organize an event with 1,000 participants. There are 400 volunteers from Hay River alone. For perspective, almost one out of every nine people in the community donate their time and energy to this event. Thank you to all the volunteers, the organizers, the parents, the teachers, the Rangers, the Cadets, the RCMP, the sponsors, and everyone else who makes this event possible year after year. I also have to give a special shout out to Hay River's own PA Predators Cheer Squad. They put on a great performance to close out the opening ceremonies and I just wanted to let them know that all of us on the stage were thoroughly impressed. Way to go and keep up the good work. Finally, I just want to say to all the athletes, good luck and have fun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I'd just like to say also best of luck to all the athletes who are in Hay River, and thank Hay River for hosting this particular very important tournament. Members' statements. Member for Sahtu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MINING POTENTIAL IN THE SAHTU

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to make comments in and around the mining potential in the Sahtu and to acknowledge my previous colleagues in that regard in that subject, or that industry. Later I'll have questions to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources now that we are entering into the affordable season of our remote area, boat travel in Sahtu, so it will be a lot easier and cheaper and affordable to bring the leadership together and to engage on discussions of potential surrounding the mining industry in the Sahtu region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FUEL SUBSIDY FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I must raise an issue brought to me by one of my constituents. In my riding of the Deh Cho there is a need for fuel subsidy for those with disabilities. For a bit of background, a program like this is already in place for elders and seniors. The Senior Home Heating Subsidy helps low-income seniors heat their homes, providing access to wood, oil, propane, gas, and/or electricity. But like many seniors, many people with disabilities live on fixed incomes. If they are approved by income assistance, they may be able to access a monthly disability allowance and incidental allowance. But in the cold winters that Northerners face every year that may not be enough. Other jurisdictions use similar heating programs to support their residents. In Nova Scotia, low-income individuals and families can access home heating rebate programs, while in British Columbia disabled residents can access a vehicle fuel tax refund. These jurisdictions have responded to the needs of their people. The Northwest Territories must do the same.

In the government's mandate, we have committed to ensuring effective supports and programs are in place for persons with disabilities, and when we met in this House in March we urged the government to create a five-year action plan to address the needs of the disabled community. Right now, the Department of Health and Social Services is working with other GNWT departments to make an inventory of all GNWT supports

available to people with disabilities. I recommend that further review and discussion of this issue be part of that process. I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment at the appropriate time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
LIMITED

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to talk about Northern Transportation Company Limited. NTCL is northern Canada's oldest Arctic marine operator, and among Canada's largest barging companies. Since 1934 NTCL has provided reliable and critical marine transportation services to communities and resource exploration projects along the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories and across the Western Arctic, from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, and as far east as Taloyoak in Nunavut. Services to Taloyoak have been recently terminated due to the financial constraint of the company.

The core business of NTCL is cargo transportation. In five short months every year, from June to October, NTCL has moved millions of tons of cargo in our seven and a half decades serving Northerners, and are as much a fixture of northern summer life as 24-hour sunshine. However in the eyes of many Northerners this may not be the case. The people of the Arctic, the Inuvialuit and the Inuit, are customers, owners, and after decades of delivering sealift cargo since 1985, NTCL has been a 100 per cent Inuit-owned company, and is a founding member of the NorTerra group of companies. NorTerra is owned by the Inuvialuit Development Corporation of the Western Arctic on behalf of the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic and the Inuit of Nunavut. The department has reached out to other potential supply and transportation providers and is confident that the new contracts will meet the resupply needs of the Petroleum Products Program and to the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, my region of Nunakput relies heavily on petroleum products and dry goods delivered to the communities, and later on I will have questions to the Minister of Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to recognize a constituent of Yellowknife

South, Gayla Thunstrom. I think I got it right today. Thank you.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a couple of Pages from the Yellowknife North riding. I would like to recognize Aisling Dunn and Riley Menard, and thank all the Pages for the incredible work they do for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take a moment to recognize Marie Buchanan. Marie is a constituent of Range Lake, but she is also a nurse practitioner and spent many years within the North travelling to different communities and is a real value to the Northwest Territories. Thank you for being here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Crystal Lennie to the House today and take in our proceedings. I believe she's been regularly coming to Yellowknife to take her management and leadership courses and I wish her the best of luck in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize Marie Buchanan who helped with the birthing of either our son or daughter. It's over 20 years ago and I can't remember which one, but she was there and helped very much, and I appreciate her efforts as a nurse in Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed those in the gallery, welcome. Thanks for being here with us. It's always nice to have an audience in the gallery. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Member for Sahtu.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5-18(2): TRACK AND FIELD RECOGNITION, HALEY CASSIE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to acknowledge a young lady named Haley Cassie who is participating in the current annual track and field competition in Hay River on behalf of her school, the Mackenzie Mountain

School in Norman Wells. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday Haley broke the record running the 1800-metre track. No one has broken that record since 2002. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Sahtu region, I would like to congratulate her, her family, her colleagues, her friends, teachers, coach, community, on her success and wishing all the competitors at the function or event and from the Sahtu an enjoyable event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 144-18(2): COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, as you heard in my Member's statement, community capacity is important. During my last constituency tour, a number of concerns were raised about Municipal and Community Affairs' role in this area. I would like to ask the Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs if he can explain the role his department has in regard to working with communities in regard to capacity building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA has a different relationship with the local band government than we would have with other governments. Other governments fall under the legislation that defines authority and roles and responsibilities. Local band governments fall under the authority of the federal Indian Act and are the responsibility of the Indian and Northern Development Canada, or INAC. We have nine local band governments in the Northwest Territories, and MACA has a financial agreement with them to deliver municipal services. Beyond these agreements we really have no authority over their governance or their operations in their community. We work closely with INAC and, if there are areas that need to be improved within the band, then we will try to work with the band to help improve some of the areas and help them build capacity as well.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Member for his answer. Can the Minister please explain how his department works with Dehcho First Nations to help band communities in the Nahendeh riding to ensure the bands are successful in their operations?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: MACA has no relationship with the Dehcho First Nations as to the operations of the band within their area. We work directly with INAC, or we will work closely with the local band governments as it relates to the

municipal-type services or responsibility that we have an agreement with them to deliver.

MR. THOMPSON: Again, I'd like to thank the Minister for his answer. In the past, we've heard about an accountability framework and how it is important to help communities out. Can the Minister please explain how this tool is used to help the communities to achieve success without the government stepping in or entering into a co-management relationship?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We would like to think that the accountability framework tool has been a very valuable tool for not only our department but for community governments as well. It allows us the opportunity to identify any issues that are small before they become big issues and work with the communities to try and resolve these issues. Before we had the accountability framework, unfortunately we ran into a few situations where communities had run into some difficulties and we had to step in later. With the new accountability framework, we believe we have the tools in place to respond to any small issues before they become a big issue, and we have to possibly go in there and co-manage with the community.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the Minister for his answer. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is very proud of the new deal direction they have taken. Can the Minister please provide this House with what tools the department gives the communities before implementing this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Member is absolutely correct. We are very proud of the new deal. It's actually been since 2007 now, so it's not so new anymore, but we're very proud of the deal and the responsibility that it's given the communities to prioritize a lot of their initiatives and with the ability they have and the financing they have they can put these to use. The major difference in responsibility is probably the capital planning, and we work closely with the communities to assist them in the application process and the planning process for their capital infrastructure projects. Ultimately at the end of the day the decision is theirs. What we've found, I think, in the past number of years is that the communities have really stepped up and embraced this. The communities are actually getting infrastructure projects done cheaper than it would have been had you stuck a government sticker on there, because you stick a GNWT sticker on there and the price seems to be a little higher. They've been able to get some fairly good deals and finance their own

projects. Under the new Gas Tax Agreement, we're also working to implement an asset management strategy for community governments which, for the Dehcho, will help to build off the previous efforts to advance our asset management with the band government. Mr. Speaker, MACA's role now is basically to be a support to the community governments as they try to forward a lot of their own initiatives and priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 145-18(2): SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the socio-economic agreements that our government has with the three diamond mines. I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI questions on that. Does the government have any way of holding the diamond mines to account for employment targets set out in the socio-economic agreements? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, the government of the Northwest Territories oversees the implementation of the socio-economic agreements and coordinates the Government efforts under each SEA while monitoring how well each developer carries out its respective responsibilities. I think the mines are very accountable for their respective SEAs. Through the environmental assessment process or the regulatory process, the Government of the Northwest Territories, when the first diamond mine was established, pushed for socio-economic agreements that came out as a recommendation from the environmental assessment process. Every mining project that has gone forward requires socio-economic agreements, so we have to go through that process. The socio-economic agreements have evolved over time from the first one that was negotiated with BHP and Ekati, which essentially their only reporting was to this Legislative Assembly. However, our government holds annual meetings with senior officials from all the mines that have socio-economic agreements. All socio-economic agreements have dispute resolution clauses and requirements for public reporting. The mines produce an annual report documenting their progress in achieving socio-economic agreement commitments and these are made public. Also, ITI publishes annual results in their Communities and Diamonds reports. Community meetings are also held to communicate results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: I represent a constituency that is over 90 per cent Aboriginal, and I would like to know if there's anything specific in the socio-economic agreements between the government and the diamond mines that hold the diamond mines accountable for the employment of Aboriginal people at the diamond mine. I recognize that the socio-economic agreement does cover the northern/Aboriginal employment, but I'm particularly interested in how the government will hold the diamond mines accountable for the employment targets for Aboriginal people.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We've taken a number of different approaches to it. Most of the mining companies that are operating in the Northwest Territories are very large companies that stake their reputation on achieving the targets that they've negotiated. We use a process of publishing the reports. Where those targets are not being met, we follow up with meetings. Certainly in the first instance when there was difficulty meeting targets, the diamond companies came to meet with us to find, well, why weren't we producing more students that could meet the academic requirements that could be streamed into trades or so on that could go to work at the diamond mines, and we certainly looked at that. We also set up a number of different processes where we could work with the mining companies to find ways that we could have more northern and Aboriginal employees. We also looked at: how do we deal with fly in/fly out workers. We have a number of processes. It's a very difficult area. Obviously mine safety comes to mind. You also need people with the requisite skills to do the jobs. Also, there are other factors that come into play to make sure that you have a very sustainable mine that pays very strict adherence to mine safety.

MR. BEAULIEU: The Minister sort of answered parts of the third question, but to be very clear and focused, I would like to ask the Minister what the mines have identified as the key reasons for failing to meet the target of hiring Aboriginal employees at the diamond mines?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I think we have to remember that the mines, especially the diamond mines, have had a very positive impact on our northern workforce with over 20,000 person-years employed. However, we are constantly working to improve this. The mines and ourselves know that there are a number of factors that contribute, such as low commodity prices and the financial markets. The mines have to match revenues and expenditures. What they have indicated is we have a very small workforce; they have a very small pool to draw from. Consequently the more mines we have, the less ability they have to hire northern Aboriginal workers. They're robbing Peter to pay Paul, kind of thing, where you have the phenomenon of people moving from mine to mine, yet it's the same people.

The inventory is not growing larger. The safety issue is paramount; also they have very strict requirements in flying in and flying out, two weeks in and two weeks out, or the management, those that work four and three. Essentially, those are the areas. Also they are limited to pick-up points. There are only so many pick-up points that have been negotiated. They would like to hire more across the Northwest Territories, but for example most of the socio-economic agreements don't have provisions for the mines to pay for employees outside the pick-up communities. For example, some mines are paying close to \$200,000 to fly in workers from outside their area, and they are saying, "well, it's not in our socio-economic agreement, and we're doing it but we can't continue to do it as the diamond prices go down." Those are the things that we're faced with, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Those are good responses. I believe that it seems to be an issue of the skills of the workforce. What are the mines and the department doing to develop a workforce, an NWT Aboriginal workforce, as per the workforce development agreement inside the socio-economic agreement?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Government of the Northwest Territories works hard to bring awareness to the significant benefits that mineral exploration, mine operations and processing can bring to people. The Government of the Northwest Territories through our Department of Education, Culture and Employment is working with the mines to support them in meeting their northern hiring targets. This includes connecting the mines with students, promoting employment opportunities throughout the Northwest Territories by working with and supporting the mines as they undertake regional and community recruitment initiatives, supporting regional and community training opportunities to prepare residents for employment with the mines, and providing labour market funding to the mines to train employees for advancement. The Skills 4 Success initiative is working a four-year action plan. Other examples include the Northern Leadership Development Program administered through Aurora College, which provides employees with leadership skills to prepare for management, supervisory or leadership positions. The mines have policies for priority selection for training and employment opportunities, as well as dedicated Aboriginal training investments through partnerships with impacted Aboriginal groups. They collaborate with other GNWT and federal governments. They also leverage training funding for a qualified northern workforce. They work with resource developers, the Mine Training Society and other stakeholders, including Aboriginal governments, to ensure that our local workforce is ready and prepared for the opportunities of the

future. The success of the NWT Mine Training Society in capacity building has provided 1,900 individual Northerners with training and/or career counselling and has placed over 830 students in jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 146-18(2):
INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR HOUSING
PROGRAMS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions in follow up to my Member's statement for the Minister of Housing. I'd like to ask the Minister, right now, how does the Housing Corporation take both family incomes and community costs into account in applications for their programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The coordinating thresholds that we use to determine allocations for programs that the Housing Corporation utilizes is done every two years, and they are separated into different zones between communities, and recognizing that there are differences within incomes and the cost of living within each zone, so there are certain things that we do. For example, I'll give an example of the PATH program to emphasize that. Within Yellowknife for the PATH program, because of the cost of living, people who are applying for housing, their own housing, can get up to a five per cent down payment on that program. But in the communities, because we recognize that jobs are hard, cost of living is high, et cetera, they can access up to 55 per cent of the down payment for those programs. We do take into account the different regions and the different costs of living within each region.

MR. BLAKE: I know this is before both the Minister's and my time, but some of you may recall the HAP program that many of the people in the communities took advantage of in the mid-'80s. Mr. Speaker, that was a great program, but to help those home owners with the programs we have offered today, it just doesn't match up. I'd like to ask the Minister: will the Minister direct the Housing Corporation to review income thresholds that determine access to PATH and CARE programs to make sure they are tailored to the unique needs of each community?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, so the income thresholds will be reviewed in 2017. We do that every two years. As well, like I had said when I first started here, I am committed to being very

community-focused and we are sending out a survey probably towards the end of this month that is asking each specific community what their needs are and what their priorities are. We will be developing a plan, a community-based plan, from that that identifies what the communities' issues are and what they see as needs within each separate community.

MR. BLAKE: I would also like to ask: when the Housing Corporation does repairs to public housing in small communities, could arrangements be made for its crews to assist private home owners?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Currently at this moment we are in talks, I am in talks, with the Housing Corporation. There is a cost to having crews, but I'm looking at more of a training program. When I recognize that the CMHC funding is going to disappear within the next 20 years or so, we need to have a better plan. I'm actually looking at more than just having crews go in and assist home owners, but actually looking at, is it possible for us to do some training of community members so that we can support self-governance and support the communities to take some ownership within their own communities. That's in the beginning stages, but I can guarantee that within this government's term we will be looking specifically at seeing how we can assist communities to take more ownership and self-reliance within their housing issues.

MR. BLAKE: Home building and renovations are more expensive outside the regional centres. How do current housing programs take this into account?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated, we do have the different regions for the income thresholds, so we take into account the cost of living, et cetera. They are also separated by the amounts of bedrooms, the counts with two bedrooms or less, three bedrooms or more, et cetera. Again, we will be doing a new threshold needs assessment within the 2017 fiscal year. There are programs in place such as the PATH which does give 55 per cent, again, for a down payment, versus in Yellowknife where it's only 5 per cent. We are trying to recognize the communities' needs and work within the communities. Our survey that will be going out will provide more in-depth knowledge so that we can provide a proper plan to address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 147-18(2):
SUPPORTING MINERAL EXPLORATION AND
MINING SECTOR

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. As I stated earlier today, the mining sector should not be forgotten in our efforts to strengthen and diversify the northern economy. Many northern mines are maturing while exploration is in a steady decline, and the sector requires this government's support to begin growing again. Can the Minister explain how the department is working to encourage mineral exploration in this climate where worldwide commodity prices and investor confidence is low? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government of the Northwest Territories' mandate document highlights that benefits from non-renewable resource productions enables an investment in many of the priority areas of our Assembly. The primary means by which this government is addressing the Assembly's priorities in this area is the ongoing implementation of the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy. Establishing a Mining Industry Advisory Board has played a very important role. They are helping us to get the word out to industry that the Northwest Territories is a good place to work and to invest in. The Fraser Institute, which sets out a report on an annual basis, has always indicated that the geologic potential of the Northwest Territories is very high. We are always in the top ten. But on the working in the Northwest Territories, we have been very low. We have been rated right up there with the Congo, at times, at 39th place. We are very surprised at the ratings we were getting, so we approached the Fraser Institute and asked them what their process was. We found out that most of the people that were submitting hadn't worked in the Northwest Territories for a long time, and the ones that are here now hadn't had the opportunity to fill out these questionnaires that they send out. We are going to make sure that they are working with current information and that they know what the realities are. We also have the Mining Development Strategy, which is a very important piece of our toolkit. We invest in geoscience, which is the backbone of mining. We also invest in prospector training to train prospectors. We also provide a Mineral Incentive Program, which provides funding of up to \$400,000 annually to junior mining companies, and that has been over-subscribed since its introduction. We are working very closely with industry so that we can continue to get ready, so that when the commodity prices come back, we'll be ready to see the Northwest Territories

take its rightful place so that exploration spending will be back up where it was in 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his very good reply; it is much appreciated. Mr. Speaker, the territorial government and the Northwest Territories often gets criticized for its regulatory regime and I know that there's been considerable efforts in recent years to improve that. I wonder if the Minister could please elaborate on what the role this government has had in streamlining that process and are we any further ahead than we were in past years as it relates to the regulatory processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working at this from a number of fronts. First of all was the successful achievement of devolution two years ago and we are now continuing to devolve and evolve and the mining legislation out there will be reviewed. We are also looking at introducing a Mineral Resources Act. The Northwest Territories is one of only two jurisdictions in Canada that does not have a Mineral Resources Act. This will be very important for our mining industry. It will provide for more effective oversight and enforcement of Northwest Territories mining regulations. We are also talking to the federal government about the MVRMA process. We pushed for it under devolution that we should take it over, and we've raised that with Minister Bennett, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Affairs and so we have a number of areas that we want to look at to improve the mining regulatory regime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Again, thank you to the Minister for his reply. Mr. Speaker, one of our successful programs in this area is, in fact, the Mining Incentive Program. I wonder, can the Minister inform the House what has been the uptake in the Mining Incentive Program and what feedback from industry, if any, has the department received?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Mining Incentive Program has been very well received in the Northwest Territories, especially with the downturn in the economy. In the two years that we ran the program, it's been oversubscribed. We had \$400,000 available for the exploration side; that was oversubscribed. There was about \$1.4 million requested and we only had \$400,000, so it's obviously filling a very important void. On the prospector's side, it has been fully subscribed where prospectors in a number of regions have taken the training and have received funding through the prospector's program. I think it's going to benefit the industry going forward and especially when the commodity prices recover.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Always great to see a successful government program. Mr. Speaker, lastly, could the Minister tell us how the department is actively engaging industry to meaningfully address barriers to development, such as seeking opportunities for funding and partnerships on infrastructure projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have a number of ways that we engage with industry. First and foremost is we have the Chamber of Mines for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut which is a very active association and we interact with them on a regular basis. There's also a number of industry events in the Northwest Territories. We have the NWT Geoscience Forum which is one of the largest events in the Northwest Territories where we usually get about 800 to 900 participants and it is a very important show. We also attend the Cordilleran Roundup in Vancouver and PDAC in Toronto, and that allows us to make very meaningful contacts and to present and advertise the Northwest Territories as a good place to work and invest. We also have the Mineral Industry Advisory Board which provides very good advice. We also meet with participants, the proponents that have projects. We have a number of projects that have been approved or ready to go and the only thing holding them back is the lack of access to capital. When we lead trade missions we also bring a number of industry people along with us to help promote their projects as well.

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

QUESTION 148-18(2):
CO-MANAGEMENT BOARDS VACANCIES

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier today I have questions for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations on NWT co-management board vacancies. Two of the boards do not have a quorum and 22 per cent of the positions are currently unfilled. What is the Minister doing to ensure that we have an effective co-management system with fully staffed boards? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have done a number of things. First of all we attempted to have the authority for the boards devolve to the Northwest Territories, which was not accepted by the federal government because of the

fact they had a national regulatory improvement process across Canada so they felt it was in their interest to continue to keep the MVRMA boards under their jurisdiction. In the latest election when we wrote to all of the party leaders, the leader of the Liberal Party wrote back that if they were elected they would review the environmental assessment process and we saw that as an opportunity now that we have the Liberal government. We approached them as to the fact that through the devolution process responsibility for the MVRMA was going to be reviewed after a five-year process, and we put forward a case that we didn't have to wait five years, we should start to work so that we could transfer those responsibilities to the Government of the Northwest Territories very quickly. We're still pursuing that process with Minister Bennett. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: The Department of Executive website has a board appointment section on it, but there's really no easy way to determine which positions are vacant and for how long and when positions may be opening up. Would the Minister commit to improving the website in the interest of getting vacancies filled more quickly and to ensure greater transparency?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I should clarify that on our website it is referring to Northwest Territories boards; those boards that are our responsibility. If the Member is suggesting that we also include federal boards, I'll be meeting with Minister Bennett next week so I can certainly raise that with her as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I'll be happy to have a chat with the Minister afterwards and we can chat about that website because I think there must be some misunderstanding here. I think there are some other longer term solutions. The Minister talked about delegation of appointment authority. We might also look at having an independent body that would vet applications to ensure a balance of expertise and experience on these boards. We could also look at perhaps a policy of nominating candidates for sunset positions, maybe six months or even a year before appointments are due. Has the Minister considered these sorts of longer term solutions that I've just mentioned?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I believe we're doing that for NWT boards and for those board appointments that fall under our purview.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We may disagree on a number of things here. But this issue of co-management vacancies is obviously a long-standing one when some positions have gone

unfulfilled as long as five and a half years. Can the Minister commit to report to this House at least annually on co-management board vacancies and efforts to improve and avoid these sort of lengthy delays and appointments? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll be pleased to do that. Where it has been pointed out to us by our Aboriginal government partners, we've made representation to the federal government and generally they respond on a very quick basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 149-18(2):
FUEL DELIVERY BY NORTHERN
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY LIMITED

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I spoke about NTCL and the community fuel delivery, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, my first question is: what is the GNWT doing to ensure that community fuel deliveries will be completed given the recent announcement that NTCL is pursuing creditor protection? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Public Works and Services.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Public Works and Services has had a long-standing working relationship with NTCL and we recognize that they're going through some difficulties, but we have re-established a different contract with them to make sure that they're going to transport fuel into the communities during the summer of 2016. Based on the renewed contract and the decision within the legal case that they just recently had, we're not anticipating any interruption in fuel provision for this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I thank the Minister for the response. My question is, Mr. Speaker, what impact will this have on the communities?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: NTCL has advised Public Works and Services that this summer they intend to sell to all the communities that they typically served in prior years. That includes Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok, Lutselk'e, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, and Aklavik. The fuel services division of Public Works and Services also ensure that there are fuel reserves in each of the communities to offset any unforeseen interruptions. This is a long-standing practice and we continue with that.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, my other question is: with the issues with NTCL will this affect the cost of fuel in Nunakput?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really kind of hard at this point to kind of determine how that will affect it. There's a few things that are impacting the cost of fuel at this stage. I mean, diesel is a little bit lower because of the fluctuating global markets, but there's also an interruption in the supply because of the Fort McMurray fires. It's a little bit too soon to determine what the fuel price changes we'll need to come into to what will affect the cost. If there is a cost differential we know that none of those changes will take place until after the summer season is finished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for that response. Mr. Speaker, my final questions are: what are the next steps for the GNWT? Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: On May 25th of this year, the department has issued a new tender for a multi-year fuel supply and delivery contracts to serve the eight marine accessible communities as I stated before. The contract, once approved, will begin in 2017 and it will be a multi-year contract similar to NTCL. Also I want to raise that even though Public Works and Services doesn't transport too much of the dry goods, such as groceries, into the communities we still are concerned about that, so we will be ensuring that the supplier will be taking dry cargo as well to make sure. On a side note, we've also recently entered into a contract with E. Gruben's Transport Limited to store diesel fuel in their bulk tanks in Tuktoyaktuk and that will support the re-supply activities and establish a strategic fuel reserve in that region.

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

QUESTION 150-18(2):
COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR ALL-SEASON
ROAD TO WHATI

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm asking my questions of the Minister of Finance because the policy of favouring road infrastructure over social infrastructure is a matter of financial and political philosophy. Permit applications have been filed for a possible construction of an all-season road to Whati. Given the size of this project, I can only hope the detailed cost-benefit analysis has been created to quantify benefits and returns. Has a cost-benefit analysis been completed and if so, will the Minister table this document for all Members

and the public to evaluate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're doing the preliminary work on the roads that are in our mandate and for us to link them to the possible reductions exercise we're going through I think is unfair. Nowhere in this budget are we debating the investment in the Whati road right now. We are doing the preliminary work and we are looking to try to leverage federal funding for these particular projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is whether there is a cost-benefit analysis available on the proposed road to Whati and, if so, if it could be tabled here?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I will have discussion with my counterpart at DOT. They normally do project description reports for these particular types of projects before we even get to an application stage for the funding, and if that is part of the work then it would be in that project description report. But I'm sure if you ask the residents of Whati they would be quite pleased to see a road into Whati which will have twofold benefits. People will be able to work on that road which will require some of our social spending to come down, and there may also be another spinoff effect where there might be some work done to develop a mine up there which would be put more people to work. I think I've said on a number of occasions that the best social program is a good paying job.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that. I didn't say that the roads were without benefits of their own, but rather what I'm looking for is this business case and so I don't feel like I have that yet. When the Finance Minister considers how funds should be allocated for roads rather than housing, how does Finance determine the greater advantage of one over the other?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we will work with the federal government. I mean, we have three roads that we are looking at. One is the Mackenzie Valley Highway, which we've heard for the last 30 to 40 years is a priority for people up and down the Valley, and it would have huge benefits to everyone down in the Valley. The other is the road to Whati and one is the road to the Slave Geologic Province. We will work with the federal government and we can put applications in there. If they decide that one has more value than the other or one that they're able to fund at this point over the other then we'll start those discussions with them. Then we need to ensure that if they're 25-cent dollars then we need to

ensure that we're in a position to come up with our 25-cent dollars. It's working very closely with the federal government and what they're able to afford to help us finance. Ultimately, at the end of the day, we would like to see all three roads done because they would have huge benefit for people across the Northwest Territories.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance would like us to buy into the need for a \$150-million operating surplus to spend on infrastructure. Housing is not listed in that list in yesterday's budget but roads are. What I'm looking for is some justification, some quantification of the benefits of this road, and I'm wondering at what point in this process that that will be produced. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As we move forward to finalizing some of the applications for some of the work that goes there, and again, I will check with the department, we'll see what analysis has been done. As the Member said there was some mention, I believe, of housing. I have to say we make it sound like we're not spending any money on housing and then if you look at the budget document that we're about to debate in the coming weeks, we have \$146 million invested in housing across the Northwest Territories. I think that's fairly significant and I would put the investment that we make in our housing per capita compare that to anybody else in the country. We try and have balanced investments across the Northwest Territories. Sixty-three per cent of our budget goes to social programs. Again, the best social program is a good-paying job.

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

QUESTION 151-18(2):
SAHTU REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MINING
POTENTIAL

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I correct myself here earlier on my Member's statement here. My question today is directed to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's common knowledge that we know the high and significant contributions, the economic contributions, the mining industry brings to the growth of the region, the territorial government as well, and the workforce, and to explore and add to the contributing factor of that industry is the reason why I would like to ask the Minister's support in funding a regional conference in one of the Sahtu's communities and discuss with the land claim stakeholders who are going to have a vital part in the approval and support of the conference and the

development of that potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know, the Sahtu has been explored historically for oil and gas but it also was one of the earlier regions where mining first occurred and now we see the need to diversify into mining from oil and gas in the Sahtu. We know there's some significant interest in mining and there's also significant potential, and we are looking at developing regional mining strategies in every region in the Northwest Territories, so certainly we'd be prepared to consider a mining conference in the region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: I'm glad to hear the support is going in that direction to have this conference here to have good heartfelt dialogue with all the speakers and all the stakeholders related to this initiative. Because of the remoteness and the high travel mobilization costs here for leaders to get together not only amongst themselves but with initiatives such as this conference, we'd like to take advantage of this summer's boating season. It takes a few hours to go from one community to the next, so it's an enjoyable trip and a reasonable transportation mode, probably the only one at this time of the year, Mr. Speaker. We'd like to hold a conference here, all said and done, sometime, in an ideal location, here this summer. Would the Minister support the timing of the conference and resources needed to sponsor this initiative this summer?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We would have to look at that. Seeing as this is June already and we would have to take that into consideration and looking into what the Member is proposing.

MR. MCNEELY: After listening and reviewing the numbers here yesterday, I think it could be said confidently that there are resources available to hold such an event. I think Kevin would agree there, he's smiling, so I've got his vote. Nevertheless, we'd like to submit a proposal here in the very near future, so would the Minister commit to providing the necessary resources?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: One of my rules is don't agree to something you don't know what the value is, so we'll wait for the proposal.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last closing question is thanks for the support and I look forward to concluding this request over the next few hours, meaning the very near future, on a proposed development submission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I didn't hear a question there. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

QUESTION 152-18(2):
COST OF LIVING FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the high cost of living in the Northwest Territories, I think everybody is aware, is a big challenge for this government, at the same time especially for people that live in their homes. Of course, particular costs that concerns all of us is just the cost of fossil fuels, including fuel oil. Disabled persons, this government I believe, tries to support them by ensuring that they live independently. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment: under the income support umbrella, what programs exist to help people with disabilities address their cost of living? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has a great Income Assistance program and it's all based on a client-to-client review, and any persons with disabilities do have to set up a meeting with the client service officers within their regions and there are services provided to people with disabilities in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for his reply. The services that the Minister outlines, can he provide an explanation in terms of those services that are available to disabled persons at the community level, and at the same at the territorial level?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Mr. Speaker, the income security programs provide for the basic needs whether it's market rental housing, clothing, food, just the basic needs for anybody looking to live an independent lifestyle whether it's a senior or persons living with disabilities. To get into more details, it is on a client-to-client basis on any income that they might have as well. To get into more detail anyone that's applying for income assistance that needs the help that they do need, I would encourage them to go to see a client service officer and work out a plan moving forward.

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, it seems that the government has almost an open mind in terms of taking a case-by-case analysis in terms of the needs of persons that do indeed need income assistance, and for that matter, you know, when was the Northwest Territories monthly disability allowance and incidental allowance reviewed and updated?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: It is reviewed on a regular basis. Right now I believe we are going through a review and we will be making some comments to that during this session and we will have information provided to committee as well as all Members.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've seen other jurisdictions across Canada successfully provide incentives for people with disabilities. In the Northwest Territories we already have precedents. Precedents of providing assistance to seniors' fuel subsidies as one example. Will the Minister commit to review this issue through the government's inventory of available services? Mahsi.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: One thing that the department is doing is that we're trying to make it a little bit clearer for people living with disabilities and the seniors who are on a fixed income to not have to report their income on a monthly basis; making it easier for them to access these programs and services. For other people that are on income assistance, we will have to look at the income on a monthly basis. But for persons living with disabilities and seniors on a fixed income I think we're moving ahead in terms of the reporting that they have to do on a monthly basis, and I think that that's a big improvement in terms of the time that persons with disabilities and seniors are putting towards filling out the paperwork.

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

QUESTION 153-18(2):
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE WITH RESPECT TO
H.H. WILLIAMS HOSPITAL BUILDING

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be quick, about a minute here. Yesterday I spoke about the long-term care issue in Hay River. Minister Cochrane was nice enough to come and tour the site yesterday while she was in Hay River and we discussed the uses for the old hospital, the possibility of expanding the current plan. Just very quickly, and because there's been a lot of people wanting to re-use that old hospital building I want to get the numbers out there and I was wondering if Minister Cochrane has numbers as to the cost of deferred maintenance on the old building; the cost of replacing the sprinkler system if it needs it? Any of those kinds of things that would be prohibitive to an NGO or someone from taking over that building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Even though you have a minute left, you still have time. I'll allow you to finish your

four questions. So you don't have to speed up. Minister of Public Works and Services.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The deferred maintenance actually that is on the H.H. Williams Hospital is over actually \$38 million at this point. Currently, we're spending \$632,000 annually on utilities and about \$400,000 on regular maintenance. It's a very expensive building to operate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I wish I would have known that before I asked all my questions at once.

---Laughter

I imagine there's been... Clearly, there's been reports done on this building, like inspection reports, and Public Works must have come to some conclusions. I was wondering: is the ultimate fate of that building to be torn down once the long-term beds are moved out of it?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you for acknowledging that I went to the community yesterday to specifically look at the location, et cetera. At this point, once the old hospital is emptied out, we will do a final assessment. My assumption at this point is that it won't be valuable to renovate versus tearing it down. The other really important point is that once that hospital is taken down it will be another option that Health and Social Services can look at when they're developing their long-term care for long-term care beds.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you for that answer and again, I do appreciate the Minister coming by. I'd just like to make a final comment, that if that building does have to come down, I'm glad that both Minister Abernethy has reserved that space so that they can expand and that Minister Cochrane sees the value in sort of a seniors' area or long-term care area where we can have other complimenting facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I didn't really hear a question, but I'll ask the Minister of Public Works and Services to answer if she wishes.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Oral questions, the time has expired. Item 8, written questions. Member for Nahendeh.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 5-18(2): MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS ON HIGHWAY NO. 1

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have written questions regarding the maintenance contract at Highway No. 1. My questions are to the Minister of Transportation.

1. What is the annual maintenance budget for each section of Highway No. 1, including the ice crossing?
2. What is the total amount spent on maintenance on Highway No. 1 since 2010-11?
3. Which companies have been awarded maintenance contracts on Highway No. 1 since 2010-11, and what was the rationale for selecting them?
4. How does the department review contracts or contractor and in-house maintenance work on Highway No. 1?
5. How does the department monitor and consider the impact of weather conditions on the maintenance work it performs on Highway No. 1?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, replies to budget address, day 2 of 7. Item 12, petitions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Petitions

PETITION 1-18(2): THE 2016 GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BUDGET

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the 2016 Government of the Northwest Territories Budget. Mr. Speaker, this petition contains 330 signatures of Northwest Territories residents and two signatures of residents from southern Canada. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request the following:

That the Government of the Northwest Territories recognize the following criteria when implementing reductions in the 2016 budget:

- First, government workers and their families need to be prioritized;
- Second, government jobs must be protected;

- Third, communities and residents must be supported by maintaining programs and services; and
- lastly, consideration be given to people before bridges and roads. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Petitions. Item 13, Reports of standing and special committees. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters with Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, committee would like to consider "Main Estimates, 2016-2017," starting with two departments of Executive in there.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does committee agree? Committee agrees. We shall resume after a short recess. First, I'd just like to let all the people watching outside of Yellowknife on satellite television know that the feed is cut off right away, but you can resume watching or listening on the Legislative Assembly website. Like I said, we'll resume after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Committee called back to order, Committee of the Whole. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 50-18(2): Main Estimates, 2016-2017. Committee, we have also agreed to begin consideration of the Department of Executive. I will turn to the Minister responsible for the department for opening comments. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm pleased to present the 2016-17 main estimates for the Department of Executive. Overall, the department's estimates propose an increase of \$207,000 or 1.8 per cent over the 2015-16 main estimates. These estimates continue to support the objectives of limiting expenditure growth in order to sustain the long-term sustainability of the fiscal framework.

Highlights of the proposed estimates include:

- \$660,000 in reductions primarily in operations and maintenance as well as the elimination of one vacant analyst position;
- \$851,000 increase for phase two communications functional review.

In response to recommendations from the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the department's business plan, the department will establish an additional government service officer in 2016-17 from within existing resources. The location of the additional position will be determined shortly. The department's proposed main estimates continue to support the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly.

Some examples of specific activities in support of these priorities include:

- continuing to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government communications through an increased focus on communication that is centred, digital, open, and engages residents.

This work is also conducted to support the department in providing to the Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency. We look forward to sharing a work plan and draft open government policy with Members for their input in the near future. The department will establish a rigorous transparent and public results reporting tool to provide ongoing updates on progress being made to fulfill the government's commitments in the mandate. I look forward to sharing the proposed approach with the Members. The Department of Executive is undergoing a zero-base review of all departmental operations to identify further efficiencies and opportunities for cost reduction in support of managing our government's fiscal responsibilities. That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Minister, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left, I have Penny Ballantyne, deputy minister of the Executive. To my right, I have Lisa Turner, manager of corporate services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Committee, we will now proceed to consider the detail for the Department of Executive. Committee, we now turn to page 118, Department of Executive, revenue summary, information item. Any questions? We will defer page 117 until further consideration of the department detail, and review the estimates by Executive, summary, beginning with page 118. Any questions? Mr. Vanthuyne, sorry.

---Laughter

MR. VANTHUYNE: I'm new.

---Laughter

Mr. Chair, if I may, with your indulgence, I would just like to go back to page 114 to the org chart for one moment, if I can. In the org chart we indicate, on the right side, "Ministers responsible," and we have a line that's drawn down to Public Utilities Board. I'm wondering if we're able to get who the actual Ministers responsible are. Not necessarily names per se, but department, deputy ministers, is that possible? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That would be the Government House Leader and myself. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Will there be any further questions to page 118, Executive, revenue summary, information item? Yes, Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, again being new, I'm going to use that excuse quite often actually, so just a heads up. We have under general for revenue summary here "grants-in-kind"; it says "band council subsidized leases." I note that from 2014-15 all the way up to the current proposed main estimates is a steady amount of \$150,000. I wonder if the Minister can provide us some insight on what this is. I note that this arises again on page 126 where it says, "band council subsidized leases grant-in-kind" for the exact same amounts of \$150,000 a year. I'm wondering what the correlation is. Can we get an explanation for that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As a requirement of the Auditor General, and established financial practices where we provide subsidized band leases, we have to show it as a grant-in-kind.

We are as part of management of existing grants-in-kind, so we'll be transferring to Public Works and Services over the 2016-17 fiscal year until the remaining leases expire. There were six subsidized leases, four of them have been terminated in favour of standard commercial leases at market rent. There are still two subsidized leases. As far as how they interact with... Another page, I'll ask through you, Mr. Chair, for the deputy minister to explain that. I believe they're the same thing.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Mr. Chair, I think the deputy minister was going to provide an explanation on the correlation between page 118 and 126, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Ms. Ballantyne.

MS. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 118 this is a revenue summary which is a grant-in-kind. Then on page 126 are grants, contributions, and transfers. It's possible to have grants-in-kind that wouldn't be showing up as revenue. In the case of these ones for Executive, they just happen to, and that's why they're duplicated there. In other departments you won't necessarily see them presented this way because that might be revenue that isn't a grant-in-kind. I hope that's helpful. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Ballantyne. Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Committee, go back to page 118, Executive, revenue summary, information item. Any further questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): I see none. Moving on to page 119, Department of Executive, active position summary, information item. Any questions, committee? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: You can agree later on, right after I ask my questions. Thank you. I notice that there's four new positions in the different flowchart. That does not include new additional positions happening for the GSOs, is that correct?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chair, with the new four positions, where are they going to be located? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. They are communications positions, so they're all located in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: No, not at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Committee, we're on page 119, Executive, active positions, information item. Any further questions? Thank you, Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm wondering, I see here that there is a plan to improve communications. I'm wondering if all four of those positions that are being created in the Executive are to support this open government plan or whether they have other duties as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was what we call the phase two functional review in the previous government, which identified we were very deficient in the amount of communications people that we had. They recommended that we increase our cadre of communications people. That was the rationale behind the increase. Certainly the more communications officers you have the more they can contribute to a more open transparent government. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Committee, please bear with me. I'm so used to speaking to one another on a first-name basis, so it takes me a little time with the last names again. With that, any further questions to page 119?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (MR. Blake): I see none. Okay, moving on. Committee, page 121, Executive, Cabinet support, operations expenditure summary, \$1,393,000.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm glad you remembered my name. I just wanted to go back to the organizational chart for a second because I want to ask about the Public Utilities Board. I raised this previously as well. It shows that the Public Utilities Board reports to Ministers responsible with a solid line. It's sort of like they're underneath the

Ministers responsible. I don't think that's the intention, but I understood that the Public Utilities Board was a quasi-judicial body and was really independent of the Executive. Maybe I can ask the witnesses to confirm that. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Presumably this will be corrected in future main estimates and business plans and so on? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the legislation it states the Minister responsible for the PUB will bring forward board appointments. I guess that's why we left it at that. Also, I said earlier the Government House Leader had a function, because the Government House Leader brings forward legislation as well, so that was the rationale for having a solid line to the Ministers responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do hope that they correct the diagram in future documents. But it's my understanding that the Public Utilities Board has the ability to regulate net metering. This is where householders and businesses would have the ability to put energy back into the grid and receive some remuneration for that. The problem with the current system is that you can build up credits, but they expire as of April 1st each year. There seems to be a problem in... You know, there's even one fellow in Inuvik who might be able to put more energy back into the system than he can ever use. We need to change the way that net metering is done. Providing some direction to the Public Utilities Board or even putting this into legislation might be the way to do that. When does the Minister expect that that sort of direction or better policy or direction on net metering is going to change so that we can encourage more renewable energy development in the Northwest Territories? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Public Utilities Board applied the Cabinet-approved principles to a February 2016 decision regarding

Northland Utilities 2014-2015 Phase II General Rate Application. The PUB is developing a clear publicly-accessible set of guidelines on net metering. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. When can we expect that those guidelines would be available for public comment? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll write to the chairperson and ask for that information. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Great, thanks. Would the Minister copy us on that correspondence and ensure that we get a copy of the response from the Public Utilities Board as well? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll commit to doing that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions? Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Committee, any further questions on operations expenditure summary, Executive, \$1,393,000? Committee, agree? We have concluded Cabinet support, operations expenditure summary, \$1,393,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Committee, we are on page 123, Executive, Cabinet support, active positions, information item. Any questions, committee? Thank you, Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I wonder if I could have some detail about the grant to the NWT Literacy Council which happened two fiscal years ago and was then discontinued. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was a special grant for a feast. I think it was some special anniversary that the Literacy Council hosted. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Ms. Green, any further questions?

MS. GREEN: No, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Next we have Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was going to ask the same question. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Committee, any further questions on active positions, 123. I see none.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Committee, agree. We have agreed to page 123, Executive, Cabinet support... Sorry, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I notice that in here there are three positions deleted from last year's budget to this year's budget. With those three positions, are they ineffective employees or were they just reduced with the new government? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. They were not affected. Those three positions were transferred into a separate division, in Executive called priorities and planning and the other one is a board secretariat for PUB.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. They are in the business plan somewhere else? Is that what it is? I guess if it is, then is it identified in the business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: It is under directorate, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: No, thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. Any further questions to active positions on page 123? I see none. Committee, are we agreed to page 123, Cabinet support, active positions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Great. Thank you, committee, that brings us to page 125, Executive, directorate, operations expenditure summary, \$6,859,000. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is in regards to the ombudsman. My understanding is that there is work being done between the Department of Executive and the Department of Justice in terms of trying to move the initiative forward. My question to the Minister is: can he give us an indication in terms of the scope of the work that perhaps his department has outlined to the Department of Justice in terms of, perhaps within the period of two years, a draft legislation and maybe indicate just how it is that the reporting function would be reflected in ensuring that the Regular Members have been informed. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was established during the mandate-setting exercise that we all went through, where the legislation would be developed over two years of time. There are still some outstanding direction that we need to seek. We expect we will do that at Caucus retreat. Essentially, it is what kind of ombudsman does this Legislative Assembly want? Do we want a full-bore one, or do we want one that will assume some of the officers of this Legislative Assembly's responsibilities, such as human rights and associated other responsibilities and roll it into ombudsman? We just need some specific direction in that regard. We are working with Justice who develops all of the legislation for our government. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Nadli?

MR. NADLI: No, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Committee, any further questions to page 123, operations expenditure summary? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. One of the pieces of our mandate for the 18th Assembly is to encourage women to get involved in politics, and also to encourage stronger gender equity and balance in boards where GNWT makes appointments to those sorts of bodies. Is there a role for the Executive in helping ensure that that part of our mandate is actually met? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. I believe that as a rule, we keep track. I think 39 per cent of all the board appointments are women. Certainly our Minister responsible for Women is very vigilant about board appointments. I think it is incumbent upon all of us that make recommendations for board appointments to submit

names of qualified, capable women to increase their representation if that is the wish of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am really glad to hear that there are folks within the Executive that actually track gender on the boards where we make appointments. I guess I am not as happy to hear that only 39 per cent of the people on boards are women. What actions are we taking to try to improve that? Do we actually have any policy on this? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. I guess I would ask the MLAs to submit more women's names. They are the group we go primarily to for recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Not quite sure what to make of that response. I was hoping for something with a little more teeth perhaps or a little bit more leadership whereby we could actually have a policy in place, much like we have the affirmative action policy for hiring staff, whereby there might be some minimum qualifications set for the duties for the various boards. If people meet the minimum qualifications, and there are not enough women on them, automatically a woman who meets the minimum qualifications gets the appointment. That is the kind of leadership I was expecting to hear. Can I ask the Minister if he is prepared to develop policy on this to promote appointment of women to boards, so that they can get the experience to get more involved in politics just as our mandate has said that we would do? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We certainly could look at it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am glad to hear that the Minister will consider this. Can the Minister commit to a timeframe to get back to us on how this might be done or whether he is prepared to actually implement something? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We set up a website to track it. It wasn't our intention to take over the responsibility to increase the number of women. Certainly, if we can't get nominations from the MLAs submitting women, certainly we can change the process whereby we will go out and find women to fill these positions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, I am just not quite sure what to make of that answer. I don't think it was actually an answer. Is the Minister prepared to come back to the Regular MLAs with a policy and when would he be able to do that? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wouldn't want to take away the responsibility that lies rightfully with the Minister responsible for Women. I will work with her to develop something that we can bring back. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just wondering when the Minister might be able to get back to the Regular MLAs about this issue.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Early next year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do appreciate the Minister putting up with my persistent line of questioning, but it was important to nail that down. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Committee, any further questions to page 125? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to delve a little bit into the numbers for clarification. I note under the program details corporate communications I see quite a bit of increase. I think that links to the Minister's comments earlier on some investment in a two-part communications effort, so I will respect that there. Under the line item of office of priorities and planning, there is support to the tune of \$716,000. In case I missed something, I am wondering if I can get an explanation from the Minister on that amount, please. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Through you, Mr. Chair, I will ask Lisa Turner to provide that information.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Turner.

MS. TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The majority of the budget is related to compensation and benefits for the four positions that are located in that unit with a small O and M budget.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Turner. Any further questions, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Maybe I have to ask again for some clarification and I am respectful that we might not get as clear an answer as we are looking for. It seems to be that in 2014-15 there was no expenditure in this category, nor in 2015-16. There is this amount of \$716,000 for office of the priorities and planning. I just wonder again if I can ask if the Minister has found additional information that can explain what that expenditure is. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It was an internal re-allocation from Cabinet support into directorate for the four positions that make up the office of the priorities and planning and associated O and M. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you; that is appreciated. If we move a little further down, under the line item of contract services, in 2014-15 we spent about \$1.4 million. It seems like the regular expenditure annually in that area of contract services is roughly about \$400,000 and change. We have allocated \$421,000 for this year. Can we get an explanation as to what are typical contract services for the directorate, and why there is a reduction of nearly a million dollars since 2014-15 actuals? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The largest part is because of the fact that devolution has come and was implemented. The amount of money that was spent in that area was no longer required. The contract services of \$421,000 is for the normal activities of the Department of Executive. Through you, Mr. Chair, I will ask the deputy minister to provide that detail through Ms. Turner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Turner.

MS. TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The difference from the 2015-16 main estimates to the revised estimates, including the supplementary appropriation we received for the phase two communications functional review. Then you will see it reduced to the proposed 2016-17 main estimates with the reductions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Turner. Anything further, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Sorry. Not to belabour this page, Mr. Chair. Another oddity on the page is the 2014-15 actuals under controllable assets, where the amount of \$600,000 is, this year, proposed to be \$30,000. Can I just get an explanation as to what is controllable assets and why such a reduction? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again it is related to devolution. Once devolution was achieved and implemented, the requirement for controllable assets has declined significantly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further, Mr. Vanthuyne? Further questions to page 125, operations expenditure? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to follow up on my colleague's question, what is a controllable asset? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Computers, iPads, cellphones. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Committee, any questions to operations expenditure summary, page 125? Committee is agreed to Executive, directorate, operations expenditure summary \$6,859,000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. That brings us to page 126, Executive, directorate, grants, contributions and transfers. Information item. Any questions? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Previously the Minister talked about there are three moves from the Executive here, but there are five headquarters. Are there additional positions here besides the four? I am just a little confused. They said three were moved over

here. I am just trying to understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Sorry, Mr. Thompson. We are on page 126. Any questions to page 126, directorate, grants, contributions, and transfers? I see none. Committee, are we agreed to directorate, grants, contributions and transfers. Information item, grants for \$150,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed. Thank you. Committee, we are on page 127, Executive, directorate, active positions, information item. Any questions? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I ask that question again. I guess this is the right page for it. I notice in here we have gone from 13 to 18 increase of positions, and they said three were moved from the Executive but that is still two additional more positions. Could you explain this difference? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. McLeod. Thank you, Mr. McLeod, I will turn to Ms. Turner.

MS. TURNER: Thank you. The additional positions would be three strategic communications advisors with the communications functional review and also the internal transfer of the parties and planning analyst; two of them and one board registrar with the reduction of one Cabinet analyst.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Turner. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you for that clarification. In regards to North Slave and Trout Lake, can the Minister please explain the differences between the North Slave and Trout Lake? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. North Slave is our regional offices in Yellowknife that are outside of headquarters. Trout Lake are the four Trout Lake communities where we have GSOs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: No. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With my colleague, I just wanted to distinguish right now in terms of positions of the regional allocations, this is an additional four. I want to know, just to be clear,

which of those positions are situated either in the Deh Cho or the Nahendeh?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The positions that we have identified are Nahanni Butte. Fort Providence, Fort Liard. There is one in Trout Lake, but that hasn't been staffed yet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Maybe I can be corrected in the presentation of the positions. Perhaps we could maybe see a breakdown, a distinction, between Deh Cho and Nahendeh. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We will see if we can change it so that these positions are identified by constituency rather than by region. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Nadli?

MR. NADLI: No, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to the position for Trout Lake, is that funding still in the budget? Is that position going to be filled this year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the funding is still there.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the funding is still there, but is that position going to be filled this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The funding is still there, but I think it is being determined that there is not enough work or activity to warrant that position. I expect that at some point the money will be moved to another community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further, Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister please keep me informed on what is going on. I would like to understand what he means by not enough activity in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We will certainly do that. Also, we will provide the rationale that we have with regards to activity. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: No. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Any further questions to page 127, Executive, directorate, active positions? Committee, are we agreed to page 127, Executive, directorate, active positions, information item?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. That brings us to page 129, Executive Council, offices, operations expenditure summary, activity total \$3,734,000. Any questions? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I noticed recently that ministerial staff have started to describe themselves as special advisors. I am wondering if that is just a title change or whether there are other implications to that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is just a title change. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Ms. Green? Any further questions, committee? Page 129, Executive, Council offices, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$3,734,000. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Next we have page 131, Executive Council offices, active position, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): That brings us to page 132, Executive, lease commitments, information item. Any questions? Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I see these are for the single-window service centres. I am guessing that is where the GSOs were. Is that correct?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That is correct. For those that are not in government offices. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Simpson?

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Six months and I am finally using the acronyms. This is a very good program, these government service offices. I have heard great things about them. My CA just took some training provided by the Executive. There was a bit of a government service, some GSO components to that. I was wondering, are there plans to roll these out in some of the larger communities? Because I know in Hay River, I do a lot of the work that the GSOs do. I know they do some stuff for Service Canada as well. I am also picking up that kind of slack. I like helping people, but I don't know if that is necessarily the best use of my time. I was wondering if there is a plan to expand this program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a bit of a plan, but not to larger centres. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Simpson?

MR. SIMPSON: No. That is something I will have to pursue over the life of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Committee, any further questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. Please return to department total on page 117. Thank you, committee. On page 117, Executive, department total \$11,986,000. Agreed? Thank you, committee. Does the committee agree that consideration of Department of Executive is completed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Thank you, Minister. Thanks to your witnesses for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Sorry, Mr. McLeod. You have closing comments?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank Committee for their review of the main estimates. If I may, Mr. Chair, I wanted to point out that this will be the last time Penny Ballantyne will appear to defend the main estimates for the Executive. I wanted to thank her for all her support over the years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod and thank you, Ms. Ballantyne, for all your hard work. If committee agrees, we will now move on to DAAIR. Committee, we have also agreed to begin consideration of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): I will turn to the Minister responsible for the department for opening comments. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to present the 2016-17 main estimates for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. Overall, the department's estimates propose a decrease of \$586,000 or 6.3 per cent from the 2015-16 main estimates. These estimates continue to support the objects of limiting expenditure growth in order to sustain the long-term sustainability of the fiscal framework.

Highlights of the proposed estimates include:

- \$200,000 in initiatives funding to increase the capacity to support the Government of the Northwest Territories new approach to negotiations; and
- \$786,000 in expenditure reductions.

The proposed Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations estimates continue to support the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly. Specific activities in support of these priorities include:

- implementing a more flexible and adaptive approach to negotiating land claim and self-government agreements, one that incorporates collaboration and consensus building with all partners and negotiations;
- refining the Government of Northwest Territories' land and negotiating mandates with the view of tabling new land quantum offers as soon as possible;
- consistent with respect, recognition, and responsibility continuing to invite any regional or community Aboriginal governments that are not yet party to one to strengthen their intergovernmental relations with the GNWT

through the negotiation of an intergovernmental agreement.

That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Thank you, Minister. Would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left, Martin Goldney, deputy minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. To my right, I have Richard Robertson, director of corporate policy and fiscal arrangements. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. If everybody has agreed, we will go into detail. We will defer page 27 until after consideration of the department detail. Okay, that brings us to page 28. Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, active position summary, information item. Any questions? Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am aware that our Minister had been chair at the national level of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group. That chairmanship ends this summer, so I just wanted to maybe ask whether the Minister could maybe highlight for us in terms of the GNWT's involvement at the national level and how perhaps we have influenced the national agenda in terms of addressing the Aboriginal issues across Canada, and more so for the NWT. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that having myself or having the Government of the Northwest Territories chair the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group was quite a recognition of the important work that we do here in the Northwest Territories, and also how far ahead the Northwest Territories is in regards to a lot of Aboriginal issues including Aboriginal rights, land claims, and so on. As the chair of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, which involves the Aboriginal affairs Ministers of all the provinces and territories, of which at least eight of them are Premiers, and the leaders of the five national Aboriginal organizations, we deal with very difficult issues. Initially, we have

dealt with missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. Also, we have had a review of best practices of Aboriginal children and care. These are issues that are assigned by the Premiers of Canada to the different working groups. I held the chair. This will be my second year. We accomplished a lot the first year. I chaired the First Round Table of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls, and we completed a very major review of Aboriginal children and care. We also worked on a number of other initiatives such as disaster mitigation and so on for a very small jurisdiction. It was quite a test for us to be able to accomplish what we did because it required a lot of resources.

More recently with the new Government of Canada, Minister Bennett came to the Northwest Territories very early on into the new government's mandate. She came in January 8th and one of her primary reasons was to meet with regards to the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group. She is seeking support for a national inquiry. We are prepared to do that. As the chair of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, I was given the task by Canada's premiers to develop new terms of reference to set up a new body to replace the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group involving the Government of Canada and the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to service the co-chair, along with myself. We'll be meeting next week to hopefully improve the terms of reference. It will have a new name. It will be our national Federal-Provincial-Territorial National Indigenous Forum. Once that's established, there will be a new rotation and Ontario will take over the chair, much to the relief of all the hard working staff that have worked so hard in order so that we could serve as a chair for two years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Nadli?

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Minister for giving us an overview in terms of the leadership of the GNWT in terms of the national agenda on Aboriginal issues. My final question, and this section is just in regards to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the action plans. There's been great effort in terms of acknowledging the whole residential school experience. There was an expectation that federal initiatives would flow to communities, especially in terms of dealing with a lot of the intergenerational impacts of just the experiences that our parents or our grandparents had gone through. Is there a continued role that this government will play to ensure the roll out of initiatives does happen and reaches the community level, especially at the ground level where communities really need assistance in terms of taking on wellness and healing initiatives? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is certainly one of the important areas I will be discussing next week as well at the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, how we will advance the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Certainly, the Northwest Territories play a very large role and a leadership role in that regard. I think it's very important to continue that important work, so we will have the discussion with all of the colleagues, and especially the Government of Canada who will also have a very strong leadership role in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Nadli? Thank you. Committee, any further questions on page 28, active position summary, information item? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. As part of the mandate that we collectively approved for the 18th assembly, I understood that negotiations with Aboriginal governments to settle land rights was going to be a priority. When I look at the table here, there is actually going to be a number of positions cut in negotiations, actually three. I am just wondering: how is that consistent with the mandate that we approved? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We, as I said, if it was just adding positions to settle land claims, we would have added a lot more positions, but we are taking a more focused, a new approach, and that's where my opening remarks that we identified and additional resources of \$200,000 to help with this new collaborative approach to dealing with land claims. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Looks like there's going to be four full-time positions that are lost. Can the Minister tell me whether those are staffed currently? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The four positions are all vacant, some of them since 2013. There is one vacant since 2010, another one vacant since 2014. All the positions will be vacant when this comes into effect. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell me whether any of those positions were actually signed to any specific negotiations tables? I'm just trying to understand whether the lack of having people, warm bodies in those seats is actually contributed to ongoing delays and negotiations. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There's no ongoing delays. That happened because of these vacant positions, but I'll ask through you, Mr. Chair, for the deputy minister to go into more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Of the four positions identified for reduction, three have been vacant for some time. As the Premier noted, one since 2010, and that was in our implementation shop, and we have certainly found ways to manage that workload without that position being filled. Another position that was vacant since 2013 just proved to be a difficult one to fill, and we have found ways to operationalize without the use of that position, so when faced with some tough questions about the level of resources, we had to be honest and say we really don't need that resource because we've been working without it for so long. Similarly, there is a research assistant negotiator position that's more recently vacant for the last two years. It's the same scenario. We do identify one chief negotiator position for reduction that hasn't been vacant but will be as of June 10th, and we are anticipating filling that work with existing negotiators on staff in the department, so it's really about reassigning some workloads. We are not anticipating at all that shortage causing any delays.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Goldney. Anything further, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: I don't think anybody's actually answered the specific question I have, which is, are any of these positions that are currently vacant, one sounds like there's an individual who is retiring, what specific tables are they actually supporting? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: The chief negotiator position that we've identified was currently, or was previously, supporting the Norman Wells self-government file and the Tulita self-government negotiations. As I

mentioned, that work has been reassigned and is supported with other negotiators now.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Goldney. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly? Committee, any further questions on page 28? Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, active position summary, information item. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. That brings us to page 30. Corporate management, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$3,873,000. Any questions? Are we agreed? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The activity description talks and it's in in the table here that we're discussing on page 30, the Women's Advisory Unit. I'm trying to understand how, in our mandate, we've approved a couple of items to promote women in politics and try to ensure that more women get appointed to boards where we make appointments. How is women's affairs divided between the Executive and Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations? I know we also have a Minister responsible for the Status of Women. How does all of this get coordinated, or is it not coordinated? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At one time the money to assist, to help administer, was housed in the Executive. It was felt, with all the work that was happening at a national level, that it was better housed in Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations because of the additional support that could be provided inter-governmentally. It was a bit much to have one woman's advisor that was previously in the Executive do all the preparatory work for FPT, woman's issues, and so on. By having it housed in there, it was able to get more support for those meetings. Most of the work is administrative support and the Minister responsible for Women, there is a women's advisor to provide advice to the Minister responsible for Women. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. When I go back to the org chart on page 24, I see that there is a special advisor, status of women position there reporting to a Minister responsible. Is that Minister responsible, then, the Minister for the Status of Women in this case or is it the Minister of Aboriginal

Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Minister responsible for Women, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. It might be helpful then, if that diagram was clarified, because that's why I'm asking these sorts of questions. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Okay. Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Of course, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further, Mr. O'Reilly? Next we have Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if the Minister could just give a quick rationale for deciding not to continue funding to the Indspire Awards.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are the only jurisdiction, I believe, that sponsored the Indspire Awards. The other provinces would only sponsor it when it was held in their province. Generally it's unusual for us to fund organizations that are outside of the Northwest Territories. Also it was felt that we could support it in other ways. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further, Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister just said they could support it in other ways. I'm wondering what those look like.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Okay. Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. McLeod?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Through supporting the Aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories. Those people that are invited and attend the Indspire, they would pay their own way through whatever departments they were with. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. Green?

MS. GREEN: This is more a comment. It's my understanding from the president of Indspire that \$125,000 worth of scholarships were given out in the NWT in the last year to students. It seems like a pretty good investment to provide that kind of support for the \$125,000 in return, although I understand the Minister's rationale for not going with the ongoing support of the event itself. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mrs. Green. Premier McLeod?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that comes through corporate sponsorships. Certainly Indspire is a very good organization and we are very impressed by the work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Green, I apologize for calling you Mrs. Green. Ms. Green?

---Laughter

MS. GREEN: That's my mother. I have no further comments, thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Are there any further comments on this section? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Similarly, I am wondering why special events funding to Aboriginal organizations has had a considerable decline over the past couple of years. In 2014-15, the actual spending was \$139,000 and we're projecting this year \$50,000. I wonder if we can get an explanation from the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would ask you, through you, Richard Robertson, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Robertson?

MR. ROBERTSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The special events program is intended to fund annual general assemblies and annual celebrations of the National Aboriginal Day. The reduction allows us to retain the funding that goes to support the National Aboriginal Day celebrations, which provides \$1,000 to each community to hold events on that day, plus provide funding to Aboriginal governments that are celebrating significant milestones of either an anniversary or of signing an agreement, or another similar event of a significant celebration event. The decision to cut was more on the annual general assembly side, where we weren't getting a

significant amount of applications every year. It ranged from two to four. That presented an opportunity. The Member is correct that the actual year prior is much higher than the actual... That's a bit of a blip for that particular year in question, where we had provided some funding on one-time events that were unique in nature. We did have things of the nature where we funded the Canadians for a New Partnership, to get them off the ground. It's a national organization, one time only for \$30,000. We provided funding for the Sahtu Secretariat so that they could hold discussions on some workshops internally about engaging with the GNWT. Those were two unique events that sort of boosted those costs up for that one year only. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Robertson. Mr. Vanthuyne, anything further?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the explanation. Further to that, and to the previous speaker's points around the Indspire Awards, Mr. Chair, we are aware of the efforts and the kind contribution of Mr. Arnold Witzig and his wife, the founders of the Arctic Inspiration Prize. You know, they fund purely northern people with ideas and innovation that benefit the North. I believe this government has stated in the past that we are going to be a supporting partner for Arctic Inspiration. I know it's not in here; I'm just trying to get a sense of is that, in fact, the case that the government will be a supporting partner of the Arctic Inspiration Prize? If so, to what amount? And if so, where do I find it in the budget? I know that that's not specific to this department, but it's because I really don't know where else it would be, and so I take this opportunity to ask. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly the Arctic Inspiration Prize is a very wonderful project, and one that certainly promotes the North, and we are very pleased to be part of it. You won't find it in the main estimates because funding has not been approved as of yet. We have indicated we will be looking to find ways to fund, see if we can find money to contribute a small portion in relation to the prize money that is given out to all the northern territories. It would be a very small amount compared to the large sum that is given out, but we have committed to look for additional resources so we could contribute. It's not part of the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Well, I appreciate the Minister's reply and I certainly look forward to the efforts that

we can hopefully find the means within our fiscal ability to support the Arctic Inspiration Prize, because although the prize money is donated by philanthropists and what have you, there's a lot of administrative support required and I think that that's where our dollars are required. Those are just comments. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. I'll give Premier McLeod a chance to respond to the comments if he wishes.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we share those views. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Are there any further comments on page 30? If not, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$3.873 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Agreed. Moving on to page 31, which I believe is an information item supplementing the previous page. Are there any questions on page 31? Seeing none. Moving on to page 32, another information item, corporate management, active positions. Any questions or comments? Seeing none. Moving on to page 34, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, implementation, operations expenditure summary. Are there any comments or questions on this page? Seeing none, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, implementation, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$553,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee agrees. The next page, page 35, implementation, active positions. It's an information item. Are there any questions or comments on this page? Seeing none. Moving on to page 37, intergovernmental relations, operations expenditure summary. Page 37. Comments or questions from committee? None. Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, intergovernmental relations, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$1.93 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee agrees. Moving on. Page 38 is an information item. Are there any questions or comments on page 38? Seeing none. Moving on to page 39, another information item. Are there any questions? No comments or questions. Moving on to page 41,

negotiations, operations expenditure summary. Comments or questions? Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the spirit of trying to advance the land claims and self-government negotiations forward, especially with the outstanding regions, I just wanted to understand. It states within, at least the departmental business plans, that there will be an effort to revisit the negotiations mandate, and these are the mandates that, you know, guides the negotiators at the table. I want to understand, in terms of the negotiations to mandate for the GNWT that we bring to perhaps, you know, the Dehcho First Nations table or the Tlicho table or else the negotiations with the Metis. When was the negotiations, the last time that they were updated? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 2011. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since 2011 to 2016, I mean, five years have passed and more likely we've seen the main interest point would be more likely legal challenges within the Supreme Court, the more likely would reverberate with policies with governments across Canada. At this point is there a particular focus that perhaps this government would have in terms of ensuring that a mandate is fairly focused but at the same time it considers, you know, some of the legal precedents that have been set perhaps at the national level. Would the regular side of this House be involved with perhaps maybe refining the negotiations mandate of the GNWT? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have submitted a terms of reference for a Joint Cabinet Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs negotiations and I believe it's part of the terms of reference and I don't see as to why we wouldn't do that. In the meantime, we have looked at several mandates which we believe have resulted in a logjam for a number of years and we are expecting to, as we committed, put forward new offers in the near future for those outstanding land claims. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for highlighting that initiative that was just recent in terms of the move forward in terms of

bringing the regular side of the House to be involved in the spirit of consensus of trying to at least address the outstanding land claims that are still ongoing. Trying to at least help out the process. Maybe the Minister could at least outline to us maybe some of the principles or interests that he might ensure that negotiators have in terms of moving forward. The fundamental question is: how can this government help negotiations move forward? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We've undertaken a number of initiatives. One is we're looking at a new collaborative way of negotiating these long, outstanding land claims. We'd be prepared to discuss that. I believe we've offered a briefing to the standing committee to discuss that. The mandates, there were at least three mandates that we think were part of the log jam. One was the requirement for consistency, the other one was to use population numbers from the failed Dene-Metis comprehensive land claim, and also the "me too mandate," if I could call it that. Those were the three principal mandates that were important to look at. Consequently that affects land quantum and other considerations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. Nadli, anything further?

MR. NADLI: Maybe a final question on this section there, Mr. Chair. With negotiations I mean there are impasses and points of disagreements. Really what happens is the parties just agree to disagree and, unfortunately at some moments in time the negotiation's evolution points would be arrived at. It could be inevitable that, you know, you do have very fundamental differences of parties. Would there be maybe down the line, you know, other jurisdictions have kind of dealt with the idea of dispute mechanisms in terms of trying to bring mediation of parties together and to try and at least put a very good exhausting effort in terms of trying to resolve some issues. Would perhaps a body like that be considered as we try to assist in trying to support the outstanding land claims? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As long as you recognize that there are three parties to the negotiations. I don't think anybody would rule out any different attempts as to how to move forward. I expect that as we run into additional roadblocks, I wouldn't rule out any other opportunities to move forward. You have to recognize there are three parties to the negotiations. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. Nadli, no further comments? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Page 41 table, here. I have a couple of questions for clarification, and then maybe some comments. The contracted services are going up. In 2015-16, they were \$182,000, so they're going up to \$362,000 in 2016-17. Are we actually contracting out the negotiations? What's going on here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's where we put the \$200,000 that we've identified for those new collaborative processes for negotiations that the Members identified we would need additional resources in order to accomplish. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That sounds interesting. On the travel, though, it's being reduced from \$350,000 last year to \$250,000. Can I get an explanation for the reduction in travel? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With this new collaborative approach, our expectation is that we would have longer periods of negotiations, so that would consequently reduce the travel required. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've been in my position now since November 23rd, or whatever, and although we've had one, perhaps two, briefings on general negotiations, I don't recall actually seeing any sort of regular updates that are provided to Regular MLAs. Is there supposed to be some kind of regular report provided to Regular MLAs on negotiations? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was one on my desk, but I had to send it back for some corrections because I realize that, if it goes without corrections, it's brought to our attention very quickly. You should be receiving it very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I look forward to getting an update, and I hope that they will start to come on a regular basis. I guess I'm very concerned about the inconsistent messaging and what seems to be a logjam emerging here within this building. As part of the mandate, we all agree that we were going to try to move this along. I heard promises from the Premier in his accepting his new position to try to move things forward. A new offer was to be put on the table with the Dehcho within 90 days. There was supposed to be a joint Cabinet/Regular MLA committee set up, but I don't really understand what this new approach is. I don't have any updates. The joint committee is not established. There is not a new offer out on the table, at least according to the Dehcho First Nations. There are some very inconsistent things going on here, and can the Minister provide some assurance that this is still a priority with this government and that things are going to start moving? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, things are going to start moving. I should say that the draft terms of reference on the Cabinet Standing Committee, was sent to SCOPP. We are waiting for feedback. As I said, there are three partners at the negotiating table. We have to make sure that... I could have made offers a long time ago, but there's no sense making an offer if they're just going to turn around and refuse it, or turn it down. We've had to work to make sure that we involved the federal government. We also involved the Aboriginal governments. As a matter of fact, I met with the Grand Chief of the Dehcho First Nations a number of times. We met this morning. We are working things out. The regular reporting, the report will be out, and so we expect things to move forward and come together very soon, within the next few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response from the Minister, but I guess I'm starting to sense a lot of frustration from this side of the House in the lack of progress on this part of our mandate. This side of the House is willing to work. We want to work on this and help the Cabinet start to move these things forward, but progress has been extremely slow, and I really look forward to a lot more progress on these files. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. More of a comment. Would the Premier like to respond?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. We've been elected for four years, and we're now six months into our term. One of my former colleagues would have translated that into days. Three and a half months, I'm not sure how many days, but I think we're going to get there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Any more comments or questions on page 41? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Kind of more in light of the two pages 40 and 41 just being in this department here relative to negotiations, I want to raise a point that most Canadians are aware of in recent months, and that is the landmark decision, of course, of Judge Daniels's ruling with regard to Metis and non-status Indians. I'm just wondering if the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs is aware of anything or identified any aspects that this government is going to have to be responsible for, or new responsibilities that this government may have with regard to that ruling? Maybe I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that all of the Metis in Canada and in the Northwest Territories were very happy to see the Daniels court ruling. Our expectation would be that we are doing all of those things. If anything, we would expect the federal government to reimburse our government for expenditures on Metis health benefits, but that remains to be seen. The federal government, our understanding from Justice and our Aboriginal Affairs people is the Government of Canada will review it. They have no avenue to appeal, but they would look at how they would incorporate it. On the land claim side, we think that certainly for those Metis who have land claims tabled, that this will allow their land claim to be incorporated into the Constitution as opposed to it only being done by contract, as what was being proposed. Through you, Mr. Chair, I'll ask Deputy Goldney to go into more of the legal technicalities of it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the Member's question, we don't anticipate the Daniels decision resulting in more program responsibility for this government, but it does help clarify that there is legislative jurisdiction for Metis and non-status in Canada that is the responsibility of Parliament. How that shakes out and what that means in practice will take some time to determine, so it does leave open the question, as the Minister stated, what does this

mean for jurisdictions that have stepped in to fill that gap and provide programs and services specific to Metis when now a strong argument can be made that Canada might be the more appropriate government for that responsibility to fall to, and there are things like education funding and health funding that will have to be considered and that might lead to different results. Not necessarily a sure thing but it will be something that we will have to consider and engage with our federal partner moving forward. On the claim side, the Daniels decision really dealt with one constitutional question, and that was legislative responsibility for Metis. Are they within Section 91(24) of the Constitution Act or not? The court there made it clear that they were in Section 91(24). They shouldn't be treated any differently than Indians or Inuit who are clearly within Section 91(24). On the Aboriginal rights side, though that really deals with a different section of the Constitution, Section 35. Under that, the court was clear; that really isn't a live controversy. It's well recognized and well understood that Metis have Aboriginal rights under Section 35. Not much changes in that regard for the Northwest Territories as a result of that decision. As the Minister noted, though, we do anticipate Daniels reinforcing calls for equal treatment for Metis, and that includes equal treatment for how their Aboriginal rights agreements, as they are negotiated, are treated as well. Canada has historically taken the position that, in the case of the NWTMN agreements, that that could somehow be treated outside Section 35 and not be a constitutionally recognized agreement, but just be entered into as a contract. It's long been the position of the Government of the Northwest Territories that that would be unfair and highly challenging, and that agreement should be a constitutionally recognized agreement. We do look forward to continuing that discussion with Canada with the support of the Daniels decision. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Goldney. Mr. Vanthuyne, is there anything further?

MR. VANTHUYNE: I'm very appreciative of the response, and it certainly is clear that the deputy minister has done some negotiating on rights and claims in the past. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. I'll give the witnesses a chance to respond if they would like to. Thank you. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just a question on the case that the deputy minister's referring to. Something about earlier, the Minister indicated that not sure if the federal government would reimburse the GNWT for any benefits that would be now be afforded to the

Metis people. Has there been some discussion on that as far as the health benefits that we provide as a government to the Metis? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that when the government, I believe it was the 16th Assembly, looked at changing seniors' health benefits, it was determined at that time...There was quite a hard look at Metis health benefits and non-insured health benefits for status and treaty Indians. This is something that we've been cognizant of for some time. I believe the Department of Health keeps a running record of every cent that's spent on Metis health benefits. The Department of Justice watches all of these cases very closely. At the appropriate time we will put forward our case, as we have done in other instances, like on the non-insured health benefits where we weren't getting reimbursed 100 per cent. We had to go to court, I believe, if I go back far enough, to get the federal government to pay. I think we're waiting for the federal government to respond to the court ruling. Maybe Minister Sebert has more information on how government usually responds to Supreme Court cases that affect I guess every province and territory. Maybe through you, Mr. Chair, you could...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Would Minister Sebert like to respond?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Goldney would probably be the expert in this area, so I might defer to his expertise. Clearly, it's not a question of ignoring the decision, they would have to follow it. I understand they're analyzing it. But, again, perhaps Mr. Goldney can flesh out my response.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Throwing it back to Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Both Ministers are right, the federal government has stated that they're going to take the time to analyze the implications of the decision. We do expect that will lead to discussions among all of the jurisdictions, particularly those like the Northwest Territories who have stepped in and have programs specific to Metis that might now be successfully argued should be the responsibility of the federal government. It would be unfair, though, to press Canada until they've had time to do that analysis and respond more fully. We do anticipate that Canada will be prepared in the coming weeks, and perhaps months, but hopefully weeks to engage on that subject.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Goldney. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to be clear, I'm not advocating anything like what happened with the seniors' extended health benefits. I was just indicating that I don't think there's a whole lot of jurisdictions that are extending benefits that are harmonized to the NIHB, as we are in the GNWT. As far as I'm concerned, you know, we would continue to apply the Metis health benefits and pay the Metis health benefits until the federal government sorts out what the overall cost of that decision would be just in the area of health benefits. I'm not seeing a whole bunch of other areas where we're treating a particular group or funding a particular group that would need to be reviewed as a result of this decision. I see that just being that one area, health. I believe we have, when we get to the health portion of this review we would see that it's above \$1.9 million being paid out to Metis health benefits, and that would be something that would remain in the GNWT if the federal government was to now step in and be the provider for the Metis and non-status Indians as well. I was just inquiring to see if there was any discussions at this point with the federal government on that decision. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't expect there will be any change at this time. Through you, I'll ask the Minister of Health to say a few words on this matter. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Simpson): Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. We provide benefits for Metis people as a last resort, we're the last funder. We do encourage Metis people to pursue other insurance, if they have employer's insurance and whatnot. On average, it costs us about \$2 million, as the Member has indicated, and we are ready to have discussions with the federal government. We know what we've paid over the past years. We mirror NIHB exactly for our Metis residents. We know what our numbers are. We're prepared to have that discussion once the time is right. In the meantime, given the ruling, but also given that it was a decision of this House, there's no plans at this point in time to stop funding or proving that services to our Metis residents until such a time is we have worked out a deal with the federal government where they can take over the costs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Any more comments or questions on page 41? Seeing none. Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, negotiations, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$2.398 million.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Moving on to page 42, negotiations, active positions, information item only. Are there any questions, comments? None. We'll move on to page 43, lease commitments and other information items. Are there any questions? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wonder if I could get some information about why we're leasing office space in Ottawa. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At one time we had a deputy minister of Intergovernmental Affairs based out of Ottawa and we had government offices. We found it was very helpful and useful to have a government office in Ottawa, so we've continued to maintain a government office. It keeps getting smaller and cheaper all the time just because of what's happening in Ottawa. The office space we had in the Delta building, because of renovations, we were able to get out of our lease and get a significantly better deal in our new office, which everybody should visit when they're in Ottawa, which has a view of Parliament. It's very beneficial for us when we go to Ottawa to have meetings, to have negotiations. Also people from the Northwest Territories that go to Ottawa, they have a place to go and they're welcome to use our offices while they're there. We have one staff that helps us make arrangements when we go to Ottawa and when we have to go to meet with federal Ministers and so on. They coordinate all of those. We have to go through heavy security and so on. For us, we still see it as money well spent. I think we have a lease that's for about five years, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Just want to add to the comments about Ottawa. Twenty years ago, I was a visitor in Ottawa and I did find on the website the office in question here, and found very convenient. It did provide me with a lot of support while I was there; where to go, who to see. It probably provides other residents of the NWT with the same level of services.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes. The Women Warriors of the Sahtu have certainly found it very helpful.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Are there any further questions on page 43? Seeing none, we can move ahead to

page 44, another information item, work performed on behalf of others. Are there any questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. When I read this, it seems like the federal government is providing implementation funding for the GNWT Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu, and Tlicho agreements. Then when I turn back to page 34, the amounts in this work performed on behalf of others, seems to correspond roughly what to what is shown in the implementation part of the departmental budget back on page 34. Is that the case here? What is the relationship between these two tables? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thanks Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Robertson.

MR. ROBERTSON: The table that you see on page 34 corresponds to the money that we refer to as fund one, what the Members are voting on today for GNWT resources. The information that is provided is third party. The money is what was agreed on to cover the costs of the GNWT implementing those agreements. Not just our department, there is money that goes across all departments. They have agreed to fund the GNWT for those incremental costs. Thinking collectively. That's the money that is used to coordinate the government-wide implementation of the federal agreement plus the negotiation of the ongoing agreements. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: I'm just trying to understand the fluctuation of these numbers as well. Can I have some explanation of the fluctuation?

MR. ROBERTSON: The opening numbers of 2015-16 are part of the tenure that we have for Canada under those four settled agreements the government is allowed to retain. Given the year-end closure, you'll see the carry-over for the prior year. The money from 2016-17 is the money that we have coming in that is guaranteed from Canada. We are accountable in the sense to carry out our money. The agreements do allow for the carry-over and we're allowed to use that for future work. The money that you see here is primarily for salaries and travel-related costs, so those types of monies do fluctuate a lot from year to year, which is why we carry over a small surplus of about \$100,000 per year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Seeing no one else on my list, would the committee please turn back to page 27. The departmental summary of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. \$8.754 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Does committee agree that the review of Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations is completed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee agrees. I have decided to report progress.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 50-18(2), NWT Main Estimates, 2016-2017. I move that the report of the committee be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

---Carried

Item 23, third reading of bills. Orders of the day, Madam Clerk.

Orders of the Day

PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Friday, June 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address (Day 3 of 7)
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

15. Tabling of Documents

16. Notices of Motion

17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

18. Motions

19. First Reading of Bills

20. Second Reading of Bills

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

– Tabled Document 50-18(2): Main Estimates, 2016-2017

22. Report of Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Madam Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, June 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

