



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2nd Session

Day 19

18th Assembly

HANSARD

Monday, June 13, 2016

Pages 557 – 600

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, June 13, 2016****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Masi. Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Human Resources.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 48-18(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. National Public Service Week is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the public service employees across Canada. Here in the Northwest Territories we have an engaged and highly motivated public service that provides quality programs and services for our residents. Our employees' commitment to service and dedication to their communities are an important part of what makes the GNWT a great place to work and what makes the NWT a great place to live. It's no secret that these are challenging economic times, Mr. Speaker. In the face of these challenges, our entire government has been tasked with examining its spending and identifying opportunities for savings. Despite these challenges, the Department of Human Resources remains committed to sustaining and improving the effectiveness of the public service. We will do this through a responsive workforce that is representative of the people it serves and by providing meaningful learning and development opportunities. We will continue to make strides in our work to ensure the health and safety of our employees. We will remain dedicated to fostering our understanding and awareness of diversity and our appreciation of the rich cultures that define our territory. Over the coming year, the Department of Human Resources will also continue its efforts to modernize the Public Service Act, bringing this important piece of legislation into step with the current best practices and the priorities of this Assembly. A modernized act will include provisions for the safe disclosure of wrongdoing without fear of reprisals, an important part of maintaining the

commitments to transparency and accountability we have made to the residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is undergoing change in response to our current fiscal context while also facing the additional challenge of an aging population and workforce. In order to ensure our future as a government and as a territory, it is important to acknowledge that the continued development and prosperity of the NWT depends on our youth. Now more than ever, we must ensure our youth get the education and experience they need to become the NWT's next generation of leaders, role models and mentors. One way this is achieved is through student and youth initiatives, such as the Summer Student Employment Program and the Graduate Internship Program. Each of these programs fosters learning, skills development, and employability that support a stable public service and provides quality programs and services to NWT residents. In turn, these programs also provide an opportunity to introduce the next generation to the public service. It is an opportunity to learn and develop, but also to serve. Indeed, it is my hope that summer student employment and graduate internship experiences will encourage more northern youth to pursue careers in the service of the public.

Mr. Speaker, the year ahead will present many challenges for our government and our residents; challenges we are by no means taking lightly. NWT public servants continue to proudly serve the people of the Northwest Territories and will meet these challenges head on to ensure that our residents are provided with the quality public service that they deserve. I ask the Members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in thanking all public servants for their continued contributions. The work of the 18th Legislative Assembly has just begun but with such dedicated public servants supporting our efforts I am confident we will make great progress in the months and years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Deputy Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 49-18(2):
PREMIER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Bob McLeod will be absent from the House today to attend the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Innovation, Science and Economic Development meeting in Ottawa. Thank you.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HIGHWAY NO. 7 RESURFACING CONTRACT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to speak about the Department of Transportation. On Friday, June 3rd, Minister Schumann stopped in this House to do a Member's statement about the Inuvik to Tuk Highway. In his statement he spoke proudly about this being the third successful winter of construction on the project. This project employed over 500 people with about 74 per cent of the workforce coming from the Beaufort Delta region and other NWT communities, fulfilling the goal of sustainable contribution to northern employment opportunities and delivering jobs where they're needed most. He goes on to say, "projects continue to contribute to developing a skilled northern workforce by delivering meaningful training opportunities and employability. As well, this project contributes to circumpolar research aimed at improving construction techniques in permafrost conditions."

Mr. Speaker, the Minister goes on to say the project remains on schedule and within the approved budget of \$299 million. Unfortunately, what the Minister forgot to mention in his speech was that this was thanks to a negotiated contract with two strong, well developed and hard-working companies from Tuk and Inuvik who have been in business for a long time. I have to applaud the government for seeing the wisdom and foresight to do this. To me this is a great way to keep the money in the North. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is not the case for a recent contract that was put out by this government for a project in my riding.

In early January I was approached by two companies from the region asking for my support. On January 18th, 2016, I wrote a support letter requesting the Department of Transportation enter into a negotiated contract with these two companies, one being Aboriginal. On February 3, 2016 the Minister of Transportation sent me a form letter that said basically, "the request is currently

being reviewed pursuant to the Financial Administration Act; only Cabinet may enter into or direct the contract authority to enter into a contract outside the competitive or sole-source contracting process. Cabinet approval will be required for this negotiated contract." I fully support and understand this. As a few emails went back and forth I received an email from the Minister on April 26th, then on May 4th from the Premier saying that the project would go out to competition. As well, both felt that it was expected that one of the companies were well in position to successfully complete this work because of the company's location and proximity to the construction area and its many years of experience undertaking similar work.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Nahendeh, your time for Member's statements has expired.

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. THOMPSON: I hope the Finance Minister gets his cough under control here. I'm concerned, you know. They both go on to say companies from B.C. have successfully bid on work in the Fort Liard area. These companies have sought to involve local companies, sub-contractors with varying success. The company has provided good value for available funds which has allowed the department to undertake additional work within the funding availability. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed and still disappointed to hear this answer. I will have some questions for the Minister later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PROFILE AND VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY OF
ENTERPRISE

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Enterprise is the first Northwest Territories community on the Mackenzie Highway north of the Alberta border. Built when the highway was first extended into the NWT to capture highway trade, Enterprise is home to just over a hundred people at the junction of Highways No. 1 and No. 2, 43 kilometres south of Hay River. Enterprise is too often overlooked because of its size. The mayor recently shared some concerns with me that the community is under-represented and goes unnoticed, especially its Aboriginal population. Mr. Speaker, according to census data, almost half of the population is involved in hunting and trapping but they do not qualify for government programs such as Community Harvest Assistance Program because of their residency. The program is usually

delivered by a local Aboriginal organization that offers to its membership residing in their communities. Enterprise does not have such an organization so the people miss out. Another issue, Enterprise has been pushing for the concept of an impacts benefit agreement in light of the proposed wood pellet mill next to their community. Some community members are concerned about an increase in the volume of timber products being trucked within their community, as well as the social impacts of development. The community is not receiving any form of assistance to plan and mitigate the developmental impacts. Mr. Speaker, Enterprise is a legitimate community with real concerns. Their leadership should be invited to meetings with elected and senior government officials when we visit the area. They should have a seat at the table when it comes to conversations about projects that have direct impact on the community.

The people of Enterprise want to enjoy the same benefits as all Northerners, especially those living in communities of similar size. Mr. Speaker, Enterprise is just as much as part of the 33 communities of the NWT as Behchoko or Paulatuk or Colville Lake. The people have a voice; they need to be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CREATING SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS FOR LGBTQ STUDENTS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement today addresses the issues of safe and inclusive schooling in Northwest Territories schools. Mr. Speaker, the responsibility of raising and educating our young people and keeping them safe and healthy is one of the most important jobs that we have as a government and as a society. Adolescence is a tough time when young people face the challenges of maturing, learning who they are as people and dealing in many incidences with adult responsibilities. That's hard enough, but for LGBTQ youth it presents even greater challenges. That's why teachers, the frontline workers and the school community need to have real tools to make schools safe for all students. The Department of Education is developing programming and has adopted the Safe Schools Regulations and a code of conduct which comes into effect next year. These are positive first steps; however, the department could be doing much more. The Every Teacher Project is a study of teachers across Canada and their observations of how LGBTQ students are treated. Mr. Speaker, the results of this study are troubling. For example, the study shows that almost all teachers consider

their school to be a safe space, but when they're asked how safe it is for LGBTQ students the numbers go way down. Two-thirds of teachers are aware of harassment and bullying of LGBTQ students; one in five has seen sexual humiliation, and teachers know that bullying leads these students to often hurt themselves and sometimes others. These statistics illustrate just some of the reasons why it is important to give teachers the tools they need to help make schools safe and inclusive for all. NWT schools need to have programming directed specifically at LGBTQ students, and our teachers, the frontline workers, need access to real tools and resources to execute these programs and make a real difference in these students' lives. The government's recent steps move us in the right direction but the situation calls for more bold and direct steps.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I'll have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONDEMNATION OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE AIMED AT LGBTQ COMMUNITY

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 2005, marriage equality, a fundamental right guaranteed to all, was embraced in this country when the Government of Canada ended the unfair restrictions and allowed straight and LGBTQ Canadians to choose who they love and to have their love recognized legally. Today, the NWT is home to a vibrant LGBTQ community who serve as tireless advocates of their community and who contribute greatly to our distinct society.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be living in an age where Northerners have the freedom to love who they want and openly celebrate their identity and values. Mr. Speaker, our friends to the south, the United States, at long last passed into law marriage equality on June 26, 2015. Again, love won that day and Canadians celebrated alongside them. It is a reminder even here in the North that we are all affected by events across the world. It is with a heavy heart that I must acknowledge profound loss and sadness due to events far from home today. In Orlando, members of the local LGBTQ community gathered at Pulse, a safe space built by the sister of a gay man who lost his life to the AIDS epidemic, where they could dance, love and be true to themselves. This all changed when one man took it upon himself to take that safe space away, using violence and hate to end the lives of 50 individuals leaving many more wounded and fighting to hold on. This horrific event is now considered the worst mass shooting in modern American history and has

left countless LGBTQ communities worldwide feeling vulnerable and unsafe. This is why it is so important that we embrace love and stand together in solidarity with gays, lesbians and transgendered peoples everywhere to unequivocally condemn acts of hate, violence and oppression aimed towards them. Mr. Speaker, the fight for true equality in Canada and the world is far from over. Yesterday's tragedy is a somber reminder of that fact; as well, it is easy to succumb to base emotions in dark days such as this. Instead, I choose to remember the love that we celebrated in earnest just a year before. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. We must continue embracing our fellow Northerners for it is love that makes us stronger; it is love borne from our diversity and borne of our love of freedom. We must reflect our unique identity in our schools, in our communities, and in all aspects of public life. As leaders of this government what we can do is to celebrate our diversity and speak out against hate whenever we see it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences and prayers go out to our neighbouring United States, and more specifically Orlando. Prayers to the family and friends. Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS OF THE INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Inuvik to Tuk Highway is scheduled to open in 2018. Canada will be connected from coast to coast to coast. It is an important milestone in the evolution of the north and is another change in the region that has experienced dramatic irreversible changes as the people of the Arctic move from the Stone Age to Jet Age into the digital age in a matter of a few generations. Soon we'll be connected to the rest of the continent by an all-weather road. Mr. Speaker, in many ways it's a good thing. It will increase opportunities for social and cultural interaction and economic development. It will reduce isolation, increase mobility and expand learning and training opportunities. The possibility of the road to Whati will have major beneficial impacts for that particular region as I have seen in my riding of Nunakput. Mr. Speaker, are we prepared for the negative impacts of increased mobility and activity in the area? A road has a noticeable impact on remote communities for bad as well as good; it creates easier access to drugs

and alcohol; more disruption to the community with people coming and going, families fall apart. We already see that, not only in my riding but across the Northwest Territories, especially in regions like the Tlicho and the Sahtu where winter roads spike alcohol-related violence and bring unwanted social problems to the community. People can no longer benefit from economic opportunities because their lives are controlled by addictions. Unforeseen maintenance costs of the highway erode the overall funding available to address social needs or support and making productive choices.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take advantage of the construction period to prepare the community in terms of social infrastructure needs. Local, regional, and territorial governments need to plan to promote the new highway. The opening of the Inuvik to Tuk Highway is a major event, not just for the Northwest Territories but also for Canada. Both territorial and federal governments have a significant financial commitment to this highway. It has been closely monitored around the world for its unique engineering, design and construction. The grand opening deserves recognition and celebration nationwide. Mr. Speaker, people are interested in how the GNWT and Canada are planning to mark this historic event.

Mr. Speaker, like many people in my riding, I look forward to the completion of the Inuvik to Tuk Highway but I also want to ensure we're working together so that the benefits of this project outweigh ills. I strongly encourage the Beaufort Delta communities and the government to prepare for it to take full advantage of the opportunities of a new highway. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

---Applause

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT FAMILY VIOLENCE SURVEY

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, family violence has claimed yet another victim in the Northwest Territories. May Elanik of Aklavik was the mother of seven, including four girls, ranging in age from four to 13. She died in November after being found injured and unconscious outdoors. Last month a family member was charged with her death. He had been sentenced to house arrest earlier this year for assaulting May. This pattern of abuse escalating to homicide is far too common here in the NWT. The mandate for the 18th Assembly calls on us to take action on the crisis of family and community violence. It is also one of three priorities of the

Standing Committee on Social Development. Family violence is a crisis because it occurs in the NWT at nine times the national average. The rate has been high for many years and has resisted efforts by the Family Violence Coalition and the GNWT to reduce it.

A first step is to ensure we have a common understanding of what family violence is. The NWT Bureau of Statistics surveyed 753 people in communities large and small in November 2007 to answer this question. The good news is that 88 per cent of respondents said they were either very worried or somewhat worried about family violence. But the detailed findings are revealing. An important finding is that a quarter of men and 16 per cent of women still believe that physical violence between a couple is a private matter to be resolved within the family. Women are more likely than men to state that pushing, grabbing or shoving a family member constituted family violence. There's a general reluctance to define family violence as a problem for which help is needed. Finally, there is also a considerable misunderstanding that men are victims of family violence to the same extent as women. They are not.

The reason I'm bringing this survey to light today is because I think it's time to do it again. In the ten years since it was last done, the government has invested thousands of dollars in campaigns aimed at prevention but the rate hasn't budged. What will it take to make people safe in their homes, free from abuse by their loved ones? I believe that updating the family violence survey will give us the information we need to create an effective action plan, one that is aimed at the attitudes that perpetuate family violence. It's time for us to strengthen...

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Yellowknife Centre your time for your Member's statement has expired.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

----Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, colleagues, and mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It's time for us to strengthen the prevention of family violence, to work in a smart and consistent way to ensure every NWT resident hears the message that violence is not inevitable and it is preventable. We have to do this work for ourselves and for our children. My simple hope is that May's daughters will be safe in their home along with women everywhere. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ROLE OF NWT POWER CORPORATION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Last week I made a Member's statement on the future of renewable energy in the North Slave region. I would like today to talk about the role of the Northwest Territories Power Corp. with regard to renewables and its relationship with the new energy plan announced in this House last week. In the fall of 2015, NTPC issued an expression of interest for joint venture proposals to provide 10 megawatts of electricity through wind and solar in the North Slave. In April of this year, we learned that the process was cancelled. A number of proposals were received and significant effort went into their work. The parties that submitted proposals were told about the cancellation of the process through an e-mail and some were not pleased. One of the former NTPC board members said that the direction to cancel the process came from the GNWT itself. It's unclear why GNWT would cancel this process of building energy diversity and sustainability. With some digging, we found a 2016 Strategic Plan for NTPC, obviously prepared before the recent change in governance. NTPC's mission was described as "to generate, transmit and distribute electricity in a safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally sound manner; striving to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NTPC exists to provide value to its shareholders and customers through the efforts of a highly dedicated, skilled, and productive workforce." Is this still its mission or are we on the way to mega-hydro development and power exports? To my mind, NTPC should be doing itself out of a job by building community and householder energy self-sufficiency. What of the future of the NWT Power Corp, the new energy plan? What will be the role of NTPC in the development of that plan now that deputy ministers make up the board? Will NTPC become the instrument for large dams and flooding communities for export of power? Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corp later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY RESUPPLY BARGING SERVICES

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm going to have questions there for the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services in regards to the barging resupply. Some communities along the Mackenzie River are solely dependent on one courier at this point in time and there's other couriers in the area but they, for some reason, do not have the port licence to stop in say, Fort Good

Hope, for example, so the one courier is under contract with this government. I would like to get more information on the scheduling and so on to provide confidence to the two stores in Fort Good Hope, for example, and the other two communities that there will be scheduled service this year. In most cases there, whether it's personal or this government or the capital project, it is dependent to ensure that those goods and services are being delivered on time and scheduled to take advantage of the summer construction season. That's just some logistical comments on that, but later on I will have questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GRAND OPENING OF THE HAY RIVER
REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commemorate the grand opening of the Hay River Regional Health Centre which happened this past June 11th. I have to thank the well over 100 people who showed up on a beautiful Saturday afternoon to attend the event and christen the new \$59 million facility. It's a beautiful, spacious, bright building and it bodes well for our communities' future wellness. It's one of the very first things you see as you drive into town and it makes a great first impression. The public administrator Mike Maher and CEO Erin Griffiths were excellent hosts and put on a great event. I also have to thank the special guest speakers: Minister Abernethy, Minister Cochrane, Mayor Brad Mapes, KFN Chief Roy Fabien, and the MLA for Deh Cho, Mr. Michael Nadli. Of course, MLA Schumann and myself were also in attendance. He was there in his capacity as an MLA and was billed below me on the program, which was a bit of a coup I thought.

---Laughter

MR. SIMPSON: In addition to attending the opening, the Ministers who attended made a point of touring other facilities in Hay River and I want to thank them for showing interest in that as well. It was great to hear from Mr. Nadli and Chief Fabien. They spoke about their regions and their communities' ties to Hay River. It was a great reminder that even though we're spread far and wide in this territory, we're all neighbours. As Chief Fabien said, "We're all relatives sharing this land." It was also great to hear that there has already been three babies born in the new health centre. We've entered into a new era where a generation will again be able to say that they were born and raised in Hay River. While it's wonderful to have the new facility, we'll never forget how H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital served our region for the last 50

years. We owe a debt of gratitude to the founders and those who watched over it for many years, like Mr. Al Woods. The new health centre was a long time coming, so I also want to thank Hay River's previous MLAs whose voices in the Legislative Assembly ensured that we received the facility we needed: Ms. Jane Groenewegen, Mr. Robert Bouchard, and former Speaker of the House Paul Delorey. Finally, and most importantly, I have to say thanks to the hospital staff who somehow kept things running smoothly and kept their composure during this major transition between buildings. If there are complaints about government services in Hay River, they're usually brought to me and I didn't hear a thing, so I know the staff did an amazing job. While I wish everyone in the region good health, and hope no one needs to use the new health centre I know many of us will, and I'm thankful that we have new state-of-the-art facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
COMPLETION OF WILLOW RIVER BRIDGE
NEAR AKLAVIK

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been two years since the community of Aklavik received funds to purchase a bridge for Willow River and I have thanked the department many times for that. Once that bridge was purchased the community hauled that to Aklavik, stored it there for the winter because by that time we couldn't haul it to Aklavik. Then last year we received more funding through the Community Access Program to haul this bridge up to the site at Willow River and get preparations started to actually put this bridge in place. But, Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year since we've received any more funding to complete the last stage of this project. Mr. Speaker, as I've mentioned before, in Aklavik they only have about three months to do this sort of work during the winter months. The next stage is to drill pilings and to put this bridge in place. We need to ensure that the next proposal is approved to ensure that we prepare this early winter and to complete the rest of the project. I'll have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TRIBUTE TO CANADA'S AVIATION HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEE MR. FRED CARMICHAEL

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1955 Fred Carmichael became the first

Aboriginal person in the North to get a pilot's licence. Over 60 years Fred has contributed to the community of Inuvik, the region, the Northwest Territories, and in fact, Canada. He's been an entrepreneur. He's flown in many search and rescue missions, also done a lot of medical evacuations throughout the Northwest Territories and has mentored numerous Aboriginal youth, as well as Aboriginal peoples and leaders that you can see in this House today. In 2010, Mr. Carmichael received the Order of Canada. In 2013 he received an honorary doctorate of law degree from the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Carmichael is an integral part of the community of Inuvik. He's also been a long-term service member with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, as well as being chair of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group and has done a lot of advocating on behalf of businesses, on behalf of the government to ensure that we get the economic development that is needed in the Northwest Territories. Last week on June 9th, Mr. Carmichael was inducted into the Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame with three other individuals. Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame inductees are selected for their contributions to Canada's development through their integral roles in the nation's aviation history. That, in fact, is what Mr. Carmichael did. He helped develop aviation in the North. He's contributed on many, many factors throughout the Northwest Territories. I'd just like Members to show their appreciation and help me acknowledge one of the inductees into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame, Mr. Fred Carmichael, a great leader, a mentor, and 'Gwich'in person of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Frame Lake.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We have some advocates for midwifery in the Northwest Territories in the gallery with us today, some constituents, Sue Posynick with her son Uri and her daughter Eleanor I believe are up there. Lindsay Arseneau is also in the gallery. She recently travelled to Hay River to have her baby Aveline and she's also here with her son Felix. She had to go to Hay River because there's no midwifery services available in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker. But welcome to the gallery and they're here to watch our debate and discussion when we come in Committee of the Whole about our Health and Social Services budget. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce my constituent Lorraine Sampson, who

is a dear friend of mine and who recently retired from the GNWT as a family therapist. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Ms. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my constituency assistant Trisha Landry who is up in the gallery. Mahsi. Welcome. Also at the same time another constituent, Rolanda Landry who originally is from Kakisa but lives in Fort Providence. Welcome.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleague before me, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Yellowknife North resident Lindsay Arseneau and thank her for being here today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Nunakput has already recognized some of them, but I would like to recognize the United States Riding States Leaders Tour is in Yellowknife. They're learning about our territory and they're briefly observing our proceeding today. I would like to use this opportunity to recognize the Honourable Jeramey Anderson, representative from Mississippi; the Honourable Andrew Bumgardner is the representative from Connecticut. The Honourable Travis Bennett, representative from New Hampshire. The Honourable Drew Christensen, representative from Minnesota. The Honourable Tom Demmer, representative from Illinois. The Honourable Katie Hobbs, State Senator from Arizona. The Honourable Sarah Roberts, representative from Michigan. The Honourable Melissa Sargent, representative from Wisconsin. We have Dan Abele head of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Embassy of Canada in Washington. We also have Weston Bachman, the Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Embassy of Canada in Washington. I want to welcome you to the Northwest Territories and to our Assembly, and in the event that one of you gets to be President of the United States remember your hospitality here in the Northwest Territories.

---Laughter

I'd also like to use this opportunity to recognize Jozef Carnogursky and Lesa Semmler, constituents of the newly created Twin Lakes, Mr. Moses, so welcome to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always good to recognize good friends and success stories in the Northwest Territories. With that said, I would like to recognize Jozef and Lesa Carnogursky, have been good friends and have been very successful in their lives and what they do for residents of Inuvik and the region and throughout the North as well. I'd also like to recognize James and Maureen. I went to school with their kids, and they're all doing really well as well. Of course as mentioned here, the delegates for the United States Riding States Leaders. This is the first time they've been to Yellowknife. Welcome. I hope you're enjoying your experience. Hopefully Yellowknife gets on the tour lists more often. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Lesa Semmler who is a strong advocate for women's issues, Indigenous women's issues, and to her partner Jozef Carnogursky who is the president of Nihtat Gwich'in Council. These two people are young and moving up and are going to be strong leaders within our territory, and so I'm glad when the time comes to step aside and let these people take over for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member from Mackenzie Delta.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd to welcome first my two Pages from Aklavik, Taylor McLeod, and Gord Papik. Also their chaperone and my CA, Liz Wright. I'd also like to recognize Jozef and Lesa Carnogursky. Joseph is running for the GTC President right now and I wish him well. Also James Pokiak and his wife. I've attended a number of meetings with James in the past and it's good to see him here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I also would like to welcome the U.S. delegates. It's always great to have guests from outside NWT, Northwest Territories, and also outside Canada. Welcome. Glad you're here with us. Those that we may have missed in the gallery, welcome. It's always nice to have guest presence in the gallery in our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member from Nahendeh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 204-18(2):

HIGHWAY NO. 7 RESURFACING CONTRACT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you heard in my Member's statement, I have some questions for the Minister of Transportation regarding the construction resurfacing on Highway No. 7. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please tell this House who the successful contractor was for this project? Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. I probably have to confirm to see if that's public knowledge if I can mention that in the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I've been told by contractors in my riding that it is a southern company, but can I get confirmation if this contract has a northern component to it?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: From the information that I've received on this the contractor has a northern component of local hires and a local contractor that will be assisting on this contract.

MR. THOMPSON: I guess his information's a little bit different than mine, and I'm trying to understand where this information come from because when I was in the community this past weekend on Friday, there was no confirmation that this is happening, so can the Minister please provide rationale or reasons how this information came available?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I will commit to the Member that I will go back to the department and get that exact information for him, who the northern local contact is, contractors that will be assisting on this contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that answer. Can he also explain to this House how they're going to guarantee that this Northern contact is actually going to be implemented throughout this contract because in the past there's some concerns that it wasn't followed through. Could the Minister please provide how they're going to be able to present that information in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to go back to the department and find out exactly how we are going to track this stuff. I will share that information with the Member

as soon as I can get that information to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

QUESTION 205-18(2):
IMPACTS OF INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK
HIGHWAY

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about the opening of the Inuvik to Tuk Highway and the questions are for the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, my first question is: can the Minister tell us about the current status of the Inuvik to Tuk Highway project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated last week in the House on my update, the Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway construction project remains on schedule within the approved budget of \$299 million. The project has employed over 500 people at the peak of this winter's construction season. Approximately 74 per cent of the workforce came from the Beaufort Delta region. As the winter construction season has come to a close, the company will be preparing to move on with next season's surfacing of the top layer of gravel on the highway and finishing off the remaining three-and-a-half kilometres of embankment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, my second question is how is the Government of the Northwest Territories working with Canada as well as Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk to prepare for the grand opening?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: A lead person within the Department of Transportation will be developing an opening ceremony and will be working in conjunction with the communities, with the other GNWT departments, and with the Government of Canada to ensure adequate input is received from all stakeholders. We are anticipating having a concept and preliminary plan for the grand opening later this summer in 2016.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, my third question is: have we considered ways to let all Canadians be part of how we are going to mark this historical event?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The department and the federal government are partners, and we are certainly open to receiving any ideas and encouraging all Canadians to help in order to celebrate this historic event. We look forward to any ideas of how we want to do this grand opening.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question is: can the Minister speak on some of the ways the government has been preparing to mitigate the possible negative impacts of the highway, such as unforeseen major maintenance costs? Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The department anticipates the road will lead to opportunities in the Beaufort Delta, including lowering the cost of living to the community of Tuktoyaktuk, lead to more affordable housing, and promote economic development and tourism in the region.

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

QUESTION 206-18(2):
CREATING SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS FOR
LGBTQ STUDENTS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's statement, the responsibility of the Department of Education is to create a school environment in which all students feel safe and included so that they are able to reach their potential and realize their goals. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister: when the department was developing the external working group which was responsible for drafting policy for safe and caring schools, why didn't the department include outside groups with direct access to LGBTQ youths, such as Arctic FOXY or It Gets Better Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the external working group, some members were selected. Going forward, seeing as all the safe school plans still have to be developed and submitted by October 1st, we will go look into those. We are also creating a safe and caring schools manual. In that manual, there is a section that explicitly focuses on the LGBTQ education, history, and concerns, addressing such topics as sexual identity, gender bullying, suicide, social and emotional learning and diversity. I can get to the departments and ensure that the two organizations that have been identified, we will reach out to them and see if there is any specific areas that they would like to see incorporated into the manual seeing as they are being developed. Obviously, we want to make sure that we have the best manuals, education, curriculum out there when we are

providing safe and caring schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I thank the Minister for his reply and his commitment. Much appreciated. Alberta, Manitoba, B.C., and Ontario have amended their education acts to make LGBTQ students safer. Can the Minister explain why the NWT didn't take advantage of the most recent research to add similar provisions to the NWT regulations?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. As the Member does know, the Safe and Caring Schools Act is new. It is something that was brought forth in the 17th Assembly, and I had the honour to sign off on it earlier in this term. We also have a territorial school code of conduct within this act. The territorial school code of conduct states that it is the responsibility and the right of the school communities to promote equity and fair treatment of one's self and others. It also states that the school community is to refrain from discriminating against others on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, nationality, ethnic origin, place of origin, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, family affiliation, political belief, political association, or social condition. We wanted to put everything in there in these regulations so that we can protect as many people as we can and provide the best and the safest and most caring schools possible. That was all done through the consultations.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you again to the Minister for his reply. Mr. Speaker, 85 per cent of teachers nationally support LGBTQ-inclusive education but say that they are held back by a lack of direction and resources to apply this subject. There is a wealth of resources available created by publishers, school divisions, and teachers' organizations. Will the Minister commit to making some of this excellent material available to NWT teachers, and if yes, how will it be made available?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Currently, we have an NWT health curriculum already in place, as well as we are going to be doing work under the education, renewal, and innovation. Within the current NWT health curriculum, we are addressing outcomes of skills for healthy relationships as it is mandated, and one of the components of this program is a unit on challenging homophobia. It is actually linked to the website. Also, it is in the K to 9 curriculum, as well as we have other initiatives that are committed to ensuring that some of this work in the curriculum will address some of the concerns that the Member has brought up. We will also look at a scan of the resources, what other jurisdictions are doing that are a little bit further ahead. As I said, this is a new act, and we want to make it right, and we want to make it the best act possible. We will look at the resources that are out there and see how we can bring those into the NWT schools as well.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you again to the Minister for his reply. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, gay-straight alliances help create awareness of gender issues in the school and provide an important support network. There are examples at Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells and at St. Pat's here in Yellowknife. Can the Minister comment on how the Department of Education can work to encourage and support the development of GSAs and other supports for inclusiveness in NWT schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: With the gay-straight alliances in the two communities that the Member has brought up, we have to do a school visit with those two schools. I will make it a point that when I do go to those schools for a school visit, that we will sit down with the group and see what we can do as a territorial initiative and have them on board to initiate that and be territory-wide leaders, not just in the communities but for the whole Northwest Territories. I look forward to working with them on that. I will get the department to look into that, and once we get a chance, we will do a school visit and look at those groups. I am very excited to see what they are doing.

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

QUESTION 207-18(2):

COMMUNITY RESUPPLY BARGING SERVICES

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Barging schedule was on my Member's statement. I ask the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, what is the current arrangement between this government and the resupply courier, NTCL? There are a number of rumours out there about the courier's financial position. I know that we are going to see the sailing service acknowledged by the current courier, but are we quite confident that they will fulfill the season's sailing schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This situation of NTCL came as a surprise to the GNWT as well. We did our due diligence. We looked at alternatives. We made sure we had a backup plan. We have a strong working relationship with NTCL and through our talks and the negotiations, we have actually got their confirmation that they will be sailing for this fiscal year. The court process that they went through, that they initiated, a restructuring process, kind of gave them some

leeway to be able to operate for this season. People may be aware that within the current newspapers we do have a new release or request for proposals for the next sailing season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: In the RFP, could the Minister confirm that there are additional requirements, I would say seven in the RFP, to isolate, I would probably say, all couriers in this northern territory underneath the business directory? For example, does the RFP require that all vessels, be it the tug itself or be it the barge itself, that they have to be double hulled? If that is so, Mr. Speaker, then it restricts anybody and everybody that is currently operating right now because the current operators, I am not too sure, have that standard. Would the Minister confirm, please?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Department of Public Works and Services does recognize that there are some issues going into some of our northern communities. We have taken that into consideration within our request for proposals. There are companies within Canada that actually do have the ability or have the ability to purchase what they will need to be able to provide the service to the Northwest Territories.

MR. MCNEELY: Given that there are companies with that additional qualification, such as double hulls, and it is also this government's mandate to acknowledge BIP and capacity building for Northern operators, are there avenues to work with the proponents out there in that marine sector?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, the GNWT is always interested in working with people to support businesses within the Northwest Territories. However, the request for the proposal has gone out. We will be seeing what comes forward to us. At that point, then we will make a decision on what we need to move from that point forward.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is, if the Minister could supply me with information related to this season's schedule and the future plans. I know the RFP is out, I just saw that a few hours ago. I am not familiar with the document itself. But if I could get some information to pass on to the leaders of the Sahtu and any other interested leaders down in the valley that gets resupplied by the marine barging season. In one case, in Fort Good Hope in particular, they are only getting one barge courier per season. They have no other options other than air support. That is really not an option in some cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am more than committed to trying to keep the Members as informed as I can, although sometimes I may need a reminder on that. I acknowledge that. We will commit to speaking to the Member at his convenience on that. Also if the committee would like to, we can provide a briefing on that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 208-18(2):
NWT FAMILY VIOLENCE SURVEY

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Does the Minister agree that the family violence survey from 2007 produced valuable insights into attitudes held in the NWT? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, absolutely. The 2007 family violence survey provides really valuable information about the attitudes of people within our territories on family violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, thank you to the Minister for that answer. My next question is does the Minister agree that addressing attitudes towards family violence is the best way of preventing it?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: That is a very difficult question in all honesty. I think that attitudes are a part of it. Speaking as a child who came from a home with very severe family violence within that and a large family, I can say from personal knowledge and also professional knowledge, being a social worker for over 20 years, that family violence is a really complex issue. It is a really complex set of solutions to address it. It is not only attitudes. It is about services. It is about women's ability to take care of themselves. There is a whole complex list of needs that we need to address to be able to actually fully address family violence.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that answer. I agree that family violence is a complex problem, but in order to get to the fundamentals, I think that we have to address attitudes in the way, historically, attitudes have changed towards drinking and driving, towards wearing seatbelts and towards smoking. To that end, I am wondering whether the Minister will commit to updating the family violence survey by doing another one.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Within this fiscal year, I don't see that we can do a new family

violence survey due to the financial limitations that we have. Although, I will advocate and try to look into bringing it into the next fiscal budget because, as stated, it is a very valuable tool. There has been a lot of work within the Northwest Territories on family violence. Our Coalition Against Family Violence has done a really remarkable job on communities' attitudes with the "What Will It Take?" project that they have done. We do need to evaluate that. We need to evaluate if we are on the right track or what else we need to do. Within that survey piece, I would also like to see a more comprehensive plan go forward. I am looking at bringing that in within this term of the government.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for that commitment to advocate for a repeat family violence survey in the next fiscal year. It is my understanding that the information it will provide will be a very useful planning tool to create promotion campaigns aimed at ending family violence. Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I am really pleased to hear that one of the MLAs is really taking this to heart because it is a serious issue. I would like to challenge all of our MLAs as well, as our Ministers actually, to take the "What Will It Take?" program in because I think it is something that all of us need to take, need to be aware of, and need to address and be role models within our constituency.

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

QUESTION 209-18(2):

PROFILE AND VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY OF ENTERPRISE

MR. NADLI: Mahsi. Mr. Speaker. Small communities sometimes are drive-by communities. We drive by, and we see a small community, and we just drive by. One particular community is Enterprise, located within my riding. It is in the Deh Cho riding, but it also has access to the jurisdiction of the South Slave district offices. However, my questions today are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Can the Minister explain how Enterprise is involved in discussions at a territorial level about initiatives and activities that have an impact on the community? Mahsi.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, because it is within the municipality of Enterprise, they would be a full

participant in any discussions that take place with regards to any type of development or initiatives that might be happening in the community of Enterprise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: Maybe later on I will ask the Minister in terms of what he meant by full partnership. He said partners. As we all know, here in the NWT the traditional economy has been hunting, fishing, and trapping. What do residents of Enterprise need to do in order to access GNWT programs that are frequently offered through local Aboriginal governments and organizations such as the Community Harvester Assistance Program or Community Wellness funding?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I will have to have that discussion with the appropriate departments as to what the community of Enterprise has to do. I could talk at length about what the community of Enterprise has to do to access a lot of the MACA programs and assistance of the MACA staff? As far as what they have to do to access the other programs, I will have to have that conversation with the appropriate departments.

MR. NADLI: I would like to thank the Minister for his reply. Here in the NWT, we promote the day of natural resource development. If that happens, we are quite fortunate especially if you are a neighbouring community, you have access to jobs that are fairly limited, and business opportunities, to ensure that the community grows. Plus, we also have the expectation that we are trying to balance economic and social impacts. Is the Minister aware of any effort being made to help the people of Enterprise benefit from the proposed pellet mill especially in terms of jobs and other economic opportunities?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, as far as jobs go, that is something that they would have to take up with the proponent. I do know that we have been engaged with the proponent since about 2011. We have supported both the hamlet and the proponent on their land application. We assisted the hamlet with their land acquisitions by-law, and we also worked with the hamlet to determine the fair value for land sale, and we participated in a number of meetings with the hamlet council. There are some opportunities there when the pellet mill goes into Enterprise. There will be, obviously, some revenue for that that the community can take full advantage of. There are some opportunities there. As far as the jobs go, that would be a discussion that they would have to take up with the proponents themselves.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister agree to meet with the mayor of Enterprise and visit the community the next time he is in the area on official business to explain his explanation that they are full partners in terms of any initiatives that are perhaps in their neighbouring community? Mahsi.

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

HON. ROBERT C. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to meet with any community government across the Northwest Territories. We have a good working relationship with the NWT Association of Communities. They understand that anything that happens within their communities ultimately they have control over, so they are more than full partners. I will agree to meet with mayor and council next time the Member invites us to his riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 210-18(2):
ROLE OF NWT POWER CORPORATION IN
RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to put the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to work today. Earlier today I related the story of NTPCs cancellation of a request for expression of interest for a joint venture supplying wind and solar energy for the North Slave. The NTPC former board vice-chair said that the direction to abandon the renewables project came from GNWT. Can the Minister confirm whether this is true and why the GNWT would interfere with this process? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a result of two consecutive low-water years, the Power Corporation sought expressions of interest in November of 2015 with a closing date of February 5, 2016. They received 29 expressions. At that point, the Power Corporation and the government and Arctic Energy Alliance evaluated the proposals and decided not to proceed to the next step which would have been a request for a competitive procurement. They were simply seeking expressions of interest. It was not cancelled by the government. Twenty-nine were submitted. They were found not to be economic so it didn't proceed beyond that stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I thank the Minister for his response. The recently released North Slave Resiliency Study did not consider climate change

and made no predictions of future water levels. Low waters have caused this government to burn through more than \$60 million in diesel subsidies in recent years. That is money that could have gone into renewable energy development. What role does the Minister see the NTCP playing in building capacity for wind, solar, and biomass in the North Slave region?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As the House heard last week, we will be proceeding with a new energy plan. The Premier spoke to that before the House last week. As a Crown corporation, the Power Corporation will play a critical role in the proposed energy plan. We already play a critical role in the development of alternative and renewable energy systems, including the recently opened Colville Lake plant. There are also solar plants in Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, and Wrigley. Hydro itself is a renewable resource, a green source of power. As the energy plan is rolled out, the Power Corporation will play an integral role in its development.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the answer from the Minister. I recognize that NTPC is doing some good work on renewables in communities and that they are going to be playing a critical role in the development of the energy plan. I think part of the issue, though, is that some of the same people that are running the Power Corporation, those deputy ministers, are going to be the same Ministers in charge of helping develop the energy plans. Can the Minister describe for this House what role those deputy ministers will play in the development and implementation of the upcoming energy plan?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the deputy ministers do have two roles in the sense that apart from their usual responsibilities they also will be directors of the corporation. The energy plan will be rolled out in the next few months as the Premier mentioned last week. I am confident that the directors of the Power Corporation will be able to fulfill that role and also their usual role as deputy ministers.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I will be very interested to see how this rolls out over the next while. Some in this House have called for the development of large hydro projects that could even flood communities to export power. Earlier, I spoke of another vision for the NTPC where it would basically be doing itself out of a job by building energy self-sufficiency in communities and households across the NWT. Can the Minister explain: what is the current vision of NTPC? Will it become an instrument of this government for big hydro for export or build energy self-sufficiency? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There seem to be a lot of questions in that question. I don't think the Power Corporation is currently contemplating any large hydro developments that will flood communities. If they are, they haven't informed us on this side of the House. The corporation is committed, of course, to providing reliable power to all of our communities. In fact, there are initiatives to encourage people to reduce their power bill. It is, in some ways, difficult for the corporation because, as people conserve power and use less, they receive less revenue. We are committed to providing safe, reliable, and energy-efficient power to all of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 211-18(2):
RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LGBTQ YOUTH

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier, my colleague asked questions about what we are doing to support diversity and specifically LGBTQ issues within our classrooms. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. I am wondering what resources the government has committed to LGBTQ communities outside of the classroom in our general communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Safe and Caring Schools Act, we have also made sure that, in the definition, we are getting community support as well. In terms of supporting, I don't have any financial resources being put forth. That is something we can definitely look at. I did make a commitment to my department to look at the two groups here, the groups here in Yellowknife, and work with them in terms of developing these policies or getting input into the safe and caring schools regulations when the plans come out as well. We will definitely reach out and see what kind of work we can do together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: The Minister's department is also responsible for a great deal of heritage funding and certainly LGBTQ history is a large part of our heritage going back to Bud Orange and the Klippert case. We have great festivals here, and this will be fifth year of Pride NWT, proving yet again that the LGBTQ community is very much integrated into our community. Can the Minister speak to if some of

those resources can be made available and if they are currently being done so?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Last week we did go through the main estimates. We did approve the education budget. We did mention that there are some funding sources out there in terms of heritage, as well as the arts and cultures. Some of them are contributions that we can get under \$15,000, and I encourage NWT Pride or the events that the Member is mentioning submit an application to our department, and we will take it into consideration.

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is also responsible for the status of youth in the Northwest Territories. Has the Minister committed any of his time in his portfolio to promote the diversity of our youth, and in particular LGBTQ youth, while also promoting tolerance and anti-bullying outside of the classroom, not just in the classroom?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: In earlier questions about the gay-straight alliances that are happening in Mackenzie Mountain School and St. Pat's, I think that is a great avenue to get attention on this area to the communities. I said they could actually be the leads right throughout the Northwest Territories. I do look forward to meeting the two groups and, be they willing, look at how we can try to develop something territorially. Outside of the school, that is very hard to regulate. We are looking at ways that we can do it on the school grounds. Outside, inside the communities, is always something tough. When we did the consultations on the safe and caring schools, it was mentioned it takes whole community to address these issues. That is something we want to encourage residents of the Northwest Territories to speak up, step up, and to make sure that it is not accepted in our communities.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for his answer. I appreciate his efforts on this. I think as the Minister responsible for Youth, we do need to do a great deal of youth outreach, moving forward, in the territory to combat some of these very high statistics we have in the North for violence, addictions, and also to make vulnerable communities feel safe. Could the Minister commit to spending some of his time as Minister responsible for Youth to address this with a strategy or an action plan or some form of tangible measure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Moving forward in this area, the government can only do so much with the resources we have. That is why we have developed partnerships. Any action plans, any work that we do, we always make sure our stakeholders, NGOs,

businesses, youth centres get involved and give us information that we can take into consideration. With the safe and caring schools area, that is a new act. Like much things, it can always be revised and looked at how we can make it better and improved better. But I encourage that we do put some of those things into the safe school plans moving forward.

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

QUESTION 212-18(2):
COMPLETION OF WILLOW RIVER BRIDGE
NEAR AKLAVIK

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times in this House, the community of Aklavik is looking forward to possible economic opportunities and tourism once the bridge and road is completed to Willow River. Mr. Speaker, at Willow River, we also have in my riding probably the best quality of material that is next to pretty much the same as Frog Creek. Mr. Speaker, the community is looking forward to completing this project, and as I mentioned, we need the remaining funds. I would like to ask the Minister, will the Minister ensure that the community of Aklavik receives adequate funds to complete the last stage to install the bridge at Willow River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation is reviewing the recent proposal from the hamlet of Aklavik, which was done up by some consultants for them, to finish up the bridge span on Willow River to access the granular the Member is talking about. The department is anticipating a large number of applicants for this small amount of money that we have. We anticipate it exceeding by \$500,000 again probably this year. We are reviewing the community of Aklavik's proposal, and we will be getting back to the Member as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize the Minister is anticipating a large volume of applications. I was told last week we were first in line, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister: when does the Minister expect our proposal for Willow River to be approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said to the Member and to the

House, we will be reviewing it and getting back to the Member shortly. The scope of this project, though, is well beyond the capacity of the CAP program. This \$1-million funding that we have for all the communities in the Northwest Territories is a limited pot of money where a number of communities access for seasonal employment and opportunities for their communities. The Hamlet of Aklavik has asked a significant ask on this program. We will review it and get back to him as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister is well aware, this pot of funding, the Community Access Program, is underfunded. Mr. Speaker, we need to increase this as many of the smaller communities depend on this funding to create employment in our small communities, which have less than 35 per cent employment rate. Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister could work with the Minister of Finance, Aklavik is the Minister's home community, to find extra funding for Aklavik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I want to thank the Member for that because this is one of the reasons that this Assembly has gone into what we have done to see what we do with our budgets to increase funding for this type of stuff for small communities and create employment for the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we are so close to completing this project. With a little extra help from the ministry, I could see us completing this project this winter. Will the Minister ensure that the community is approved before the winter months come up because, as I mentioned, we have a lot of preparation to prepare for our January to April? That is the small timeframe we have to complete this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Like I said, we will review it and get back to the Member as quickly as we can. The other thing is the Member has already invited me to tour his region. I look forward to going out to site and having a look at this road and Willow River and everything else this entails.

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

QUESTION 213-18(2):
GNWT SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
PROGRAM

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Human Resources. Earlier today he said that we must ensure our youth get the education experience they need to become the NWT's next generation of leaders. My questions are on the summer student hiring. I brought this up earlier during the main estimates. I didn't quite have all the numbers in front of me, but I have the numbers now. Hay River regional centre, our population is about 50 per cent higher than that of Fort Smith; yet Smith hires about 50 per cent more summer students, 43 in Smith compared to 29 in Hay River. Similarly, Inuvik, where Hay River is about one-sixth larger than Inuvik, but they hire about a third more summer students. The first question I have is what role does the Department of Human Resources have in hiring summer students? Is it just encouragement? Do they just encourage other departments to hire? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Human Resources.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the hiring decisions for summer students, as with all positions, actually lies with the department. With respect to summer student hiring, the role for the Department of Human Resources is to facilitate the database. We actually facilitate the database, make it available to students, encourage students to get registered. When a department indicates that they have a desire for some summer students, they will let us know the skill set they're looking for, we search our database, we provide those resumes to the individual departments so that they can actually do the hire based on their needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: The Minister's been doing a great job of keeping us updated, weekly updates as to how many summer students have been hired, where they've been hired. I know that there was an article on CBC the other day that said his department does encourage other departments to hire summer students, and they try to encourage departments to exceed last year's hiring. I was wondering with these stats and with this encouragement that they give, do they do anything with those statistics? Do they look at areas there there's deficiencies in places like Hay River where we have a low percentage of hires? Do they try and address those deficiencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the encouragement actually

came from the Premier who asked the departments to do everything they could to try to attain last year's numbers. Ultimately, the hires are the responsibilities of the individual departments. If we do get resumes of individuals with particular skill sets, we will forward to the department if they match the type of work that the department is doing. We're trying to get the information out there, let the departments know who's out there, know who's working, who wants to work for the Government of the Northwest Territories. I do have to remind the Member, as all Members, we want to hire as many as we can, but it has to be for meaningful work. We can't just create jobs if there's nothing to do. The departments have to come up with the funding to cover many of these jobs. We do provide some offsets, some top-up money to the departments to help hire summer students through the Progressive Experience Program or the Relevant Experience Program. Ultimately, at the end of the day, it's the individual departments that are responsible. As far as the lower numbers in Hay River, the Member did raise that in Committee of the Whole. I'm trying to get verification on why that might be. We believe part of it might be the fact that the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority is outside of the public service, so it doesn't always show those numbers, and we don't participate in the summer student hiring program for Hay River. I'm trying to get some verification on that. When I get that data, I'll certainly provide it to the Member.

MR. SIMPSON: I'm sorry for misspeaking; I guess it was the Premier who gave that encouragement. The numbers I quoted do include the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority. The Minister was saying that the departments tell them what skills they need and they try to have some meaningful work these summer students. Does the department do any work with the other departments to help create meaningful work, to develop some sort of plan so that say, the Department of Transportation, can create a meaningful position to hire a summer student?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Exactly one of the reasons that we created the Progressive Experience Program: it does provide some additional money to departments so that they have some resources to actually hire somebody in a progressive experience situation. They would hire somebody who comes in with particular education, that matches a particular activity the department is trying to do, and then they would rehire the student again and again and again, allowing them to build experience as they move through their education. These are the dollars that we're making available to try to encourage some of the departments to pursue more students and commit to some of these students in a longer term.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I've brought this up a couple of times, and it's because people in town bring it up to me; they want their children to get these jobs and stay in the North and be encouraged to come back to the North. It's something that I'll be bringing up again and I'll be looking forward to working with I guess the Ministers of all the departments, since they're responsible for the hiring, to try and up those numbers in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 214-18(2):
HIGHWAY NO. 7 RESURFACING CONTRACT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have some follow-up questions about the process. In my Member's statement I explained the process of how I understand negotiated contracts. I was also informed each request to negotiate is carefully considered by department and Minister and results in a decision to proceed with seeking Cabinet approval to negotiate or, in some of the instances, decision to proceed with tendering. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell the House if Cabinet or the department decided not to go to a negotiated contract for the contract in Highway No. 7? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that particular contract, the decision was mine and mine alone not to bring into Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I guess I'm quite disappointed in hearing that answer, and I'll deal with some other questions later on. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please provide the rationale. Why did he and his department decided against this proposal?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The reason that I made that decision is based on a negotiated contract policy, and there's things in there that I base my decision on and that's what I did.

MR. THOMPSON: It looks like I'm going to have a set of questions tomorrow for the Minister on this as well. In the letter and the correspondence I received from the Premier and the Minister they talked about the companies being on a level playing field. However, Mr. Speaker, the economic reality in the NWT is contractors are not on the same playing field with contractors who come from outside of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of any

barriers facing companies from the North bidding on work in BC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As far as I know, I don't believe there's any barriers for any northern company to bid on any southern work.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the Minister may not be aware of barriers, as I recently was informed that there are some barriers. Mr. Speaker, if an NWT company is successful in getting work in BC they are required to pay PST on all their equipment moved into BC, plus they need to file multi-financial statements and related documents. On top of that, they have to purchase various permits. This adds up to thousands of dollars to the cost of the contract. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister have his department look into implementing similar for the NWT so we are on a level playing field? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As we have GST and they have GST and PST, and probably some other taxes that's relevant to all contractors bidding on work probably in British Columbia. As far as contractors coming north and us, we all have the same contracts stuff we have to abide by. We've got to have workers' compensation, you've got to have your permits in place, and pay GST and the payroll tax and all those number of things. There should be no impediment, any difference back and forth.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, return to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Health and Social Services.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 59-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 122-18(2): SENIORS ADVOCATE

TABLED DOCUMENT 60-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 130-18(2): HAY RIVER FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 122-18(2): Seniors Advocate, and Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 130-18(2): Hay River Family Support Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TABLED DOCUMENT 61-18(2):
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EQUAL PAY
COMMISSIONER FOR THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES FOR THE PERIOD OF
JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Colleagues, pursuant to Section 40.23(2) of the Public Service Act, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Equal Pay Commissioner for the Northwest Territories for the Period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Masi. Item 15, notices of motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 19-18(2):
ADDRESSING CORE HOUSING NEEDS IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 I will move the following motion:

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that the Government of the Northwest Territories make a commitment to reducing the level of core need for all NWT housing by two per cent per year for four years so that we meet the national average; and further, that the government make investing in social housing a priority; and furthermore, that the government increase lobbying efforts to restore CMHC contributions for operations and maintenance, and that the GNWT organize its own spending to take maximum advantage of federal funds available. Furthermore, that the government develop a comprehensive and fully-costed strategic plan to achieve these goals and provide the plan to the Standing Committee on Social Development within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole
of Bills and Other Matters**

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Committee would like to continue its review of the Department of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We'll take a short break and resume with a discussion with Health and Social Services.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): I'd like to move on calling the committee to order. Thank you, Minister. Would you like to bring your witnesses into the Chamber please?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay, thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce the witnesses?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, with me today is, on my right, Debbie DeLancey who is the deputy minister, Health and Social Services, and on my left, Jeannie Mathison who is the director of finance, Department of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Proceeding on page 171, Health and Social Services, departmental total, \$414,234,000. We will defer this page until after consideration of the activities detail. Moving on, page 172, Health and Social Services, revenue summary, information item. Any questions? Recognizing Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On the revenue summary I see where, under transfer payments, shows a couple of lines here, hospital care, medical care for status Indians and Inuit. Presumably with the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision on Metis, would we expect to see additional transfer payments from the federal government for Metis healthcare? I think somewhere in here I think I saw the figure of about \$2 million is what we seem to spend on Metis healthcare in a year. Can I ask our witnesses about this, Mr. Chair?

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, with the recent ruling of the Supreme Court on Metis health benefits, we're hoping that that is in fact the case, but we actually have no details on how they plan to move forward to address that particular court ruling. We will be following up with the federal government to see what, if any, dollars will flow our way.

The Member is correct, we spend about \$2 million plus dollars a year providing Metis health benefits. We're hoping that those are the type of dollars we see from the federal government. At this time, we have no indication from them what they intend to do or how they intend to address the Supreme Court ruling. We will monitor and follow-up and let Members know when we know.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't want to jump ahead to page 198, but that's where it looks like we spent \$2.08 million last year on Metis health benefits. Can the Minister tell us when we might hear something from the federal government, during 2016-17 or in time for the next budget or do we have any sense at all when we might hear from the federal government on this? How is he following it up as well? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, some of that will actually be followed up with by the DAAIR and Department of Finance. We have indicated that we're prepared to have a conversation with the Minister of Health, but ultimately it will be discussions between Finance, DAAIR, and the federal government. I do meet the federal Minister of Health and Social Services with all the other health ministers across the country. I believe our meeting is going to be later this summer. I'm confident that this will be a topic of discussion during that meeting as well.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just trying to understand what our government has actually done on this file. Have we actually written to federal Ministers on this issue to find out when it might get resolved and when we might expect to see some money flowing? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in anticipation of the Daniels ruling, I actually did raise this before the ruling was actually given at the last FPT meeting, and there was certainly interest among all the provincial/territorial Ministers to see that ruling go the way it went and to get some additional dollars from the federal government. At that time, they did not indicate what they would do if the ruling came down as it did. We have discussed this at the Cabinet table and I know that DAAIR and Finance are aware. We're waiting for some indication as to what the federal

government plans to do with the ruling. I'm certain we'll be following up with the federal government in short order.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, I appreciate that the Minister raised the issue at the last federal/provincial/territorial meeting of Health Ministers, but it sounds like we're waiting. I guess I was looking for something a bit more proactive where our Premier or the Minister would actually write to the federal government and put it in writing. Has that happened and, if not, why? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we're just finalizing our Federal Engagement Strategy now to highlight and bring forward issues across the departments, across the government at a federal level, and this is certainly part of that. As I said, I mean I've brought it up with the federal Minister as well as my provincial colleagues, and we'll certainly be bringing it up again at the next meeting. As far as moving forward with DAAIR and Finance, they are aware. Once we finalize our Federal Engagement Strategy, we will move forward accordingly.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, I don't want to prolong this, but when are we going to get this Federal Engagement Strategy and why does that have to wait for the Minister to write to his federal counterpart? I don't understand what the problem is in picking up a piece of paper and a pen and writing to the Minister saying that we want this resolved, and even doing it in collaboration with other health Ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as a Cabinet and as a government, I think it's important that we have a coordinated approach when we're dealing with Ottawa so that all the departments are aware of the different issues or priorities that are being brought forth. This is clearly one of the areas. It's certainly, you know, dependent on how the federal government goes, it could bring some federal dollars into the coffers to help us provide services to residents of the Northwest Territories that we currently fund. We're the only jurisdiction in the country providing Metis health benefits.

It is an issue, I hear the Member. I mean, obviously the Member would like us to move quicker, but we want to make sure we have a coordinated approach when we're dealing with Ottawa so that all the Ministers and Members know the issues that we will be bringing forward in a coordinated way rather than one-offing and having the departments compete against each other at a federal level. This is a priority; this will be something that's going to be dealt with. Having said that, the federal government has given no indication, as far as we're aware, as to how they intend to respond to the Daniels case. This is a fairly significant ruling for the federal government, it's going to come with significant costs. Our dollars are, I think, small in comparison to what some of the other jurisdictions are going to be seeking. I'm not aware of any of the other provinces or territories who have approached. I think everybody's sort of just of trying to figure out what this ruling is going to mean and how we might engage across the country with the federal government.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the Minister can probably detect some frustration from this Member. I don't know where this Federal Engagement Strategy is. There's been a lot of talk from the Cabinet about this for months. I still don't have an idea about when it's going to be completed. We already spent \$2 million a year for these health benefits, which people should expect, and that's the way that we've carried out our health care system here for a number of years. This is not a question of lobbying the federal government anymore. This is a question of the law, that the Supreme Court of Canada has already ruled on this. When is the federal government going to live up to the law and what are we going to do to make sure that they actually do that as well and help pay for these health care services for our residents? I don't want to wait for a Federal Engagement Strategy. The Minister should be writing to his federal counterpart now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I sense the Member's frustration. I have indicated that we have already raised this at a federal/provincial level. We are certainly on record at the federal/provincial level during our last FPT. We are waiting to see what some of the other provinces and territories want to do, because a united front on this is certainly going to carry more weight than individual fronts. Having said that, I do know that the Minister of Finance is going to be in Vancouver to meet with the other Ministers of Finance I think it's this weekend coming. I have

assurances that the Minister intends to raise it there as a second avenue to raise and discuss this issue.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's it for me on this. Obviously, I'm not very happy with our failure to act on this a little more quickly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Recognizing Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have some questions around services provided for Nunavut. I wonder if the Minister could describe those services for which reciprocal billing happens. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, similar to our relationship with Alberta, we have a relationship with Nunavut where a number of their residents do come to the Northwest Territories for different diagnostic and other services that are provided here in Yellowknife, particularly residents out of the Kitikmeot region do come down here for a number of diagnostic and other type of services. We have an arrangement, similar to the arrangement across Canada, so that services provided in the Northwest Territories are direct-billed back based on a formula that's agreed upon across this country on what we charge them back. There's also some birthing services that are happening here on behalf of residents. We do some specialist clinics for the residents of Nunavut, but everything's charged back based on the reciprocal billing agreements that we have both with Nunavut and across this country.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I noticed that both the hospital services for Nunavut and the specialist physicians for Nunavut totals have dropped from last year. I'm wondering if the Minister could talk about why that is. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, these are based on utilization over time. We did have a bit of a spike a couple years ago, especially in 2015-16. Based on our sort of average utilization, where we've put forward the \$8 million, which is fairly consistent with previous years, there has been some change in utilization.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could I just gain an understanding about whether the Western Arctic people are encouraged to use services in the Northwest Territories or are we a default? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, if the Member can maybe help me understand the question a little bit. What does she mean by, you know, default or encouraged, by us or by their own providers or by their own government?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green, extra clarification?

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I'm getting at is whether the western Arctic residents come here because it's cheaper to come here than to go to Edmonton or whether the services here are advertised to them as superior than to other services and therefore they come here? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do have a historical relationship pre-division where the residents of the Kitikmeot did come to Yellowknife for services, they were providing things like CT scans and some of the specialty clinics. That relationship has carried on. We have a relationship with Alberta, for services that aren't provided in the Northwest Territories, we go to Alberta. For Nunavut, for services that aren't provided in Nunavut, they come to us, and if we don't provide them they also go to Edmonton or Alberta.

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

MS. GREEN: That's everything. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to follow-up with some questions about the Metis health benefits. I think my colleague covered the funding aspects and the legal requirement to move on it quite well. I've heard there's a concern from some people that the quality of prospective benefits that the federal government's now obliged to offer won't be of the same quality that we currently provide. I guess my question is, will we be using

any incoming funding to... Will we lapse our program and just take the new federal program or will we find some way to maintain the benefits? Can we give people certainty that we'll maintain benefits at their current level or improve them with federal money and not diminish anything that Northerners are currently receiving? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I believe there's a mistaken belief out there that we provide Metis health benefits that are different than the NIHB, the Non-Insured Health Benefits. In fact, the Metis health benefits we provide here in the Northwest Territories are an exact mirror of NIHB in every way, it just happens to be funded by us rather than funded by the federal government. Moving forward, we anticipate, given the Daniels ruling, that the federal government will simply include Metis people under NIHB. The benefits that they receive should be identical, unless there is a decision by the federal government to amend or change NIHB, and we have no indication that that is the case. The individuals should receive exactly the same benefits that they are receiving today. The funding agent will be different, and that builds upon Mr. O'Reilly's point, that the federal government needs to come to the table. We agree wholeheartedly. The federal government lost the Daniels case and they have been told that they need to provide services to Metis. We aren't sure what they intend to do, but are hopeful that they will meet that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand that there is no difference today regarding other funding, but if we wanted to make a policy change to Metis benefits now, could we do that theoretically on our own, or is it rigidly mirrored, or could we make those minor corrections? Say if a Metis client in the Northwest Territories had some trouble. Could the Minister, our Minister of Health make a policy change to that program, or does that not happen currently, if there was a gap in coverage? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do have the ability to have during negotiations discussions with the federal government on NIHB and its coverage, and we are planning, we are going to be going into negotiations soon where we will certainly make some points about some specific things that are covered that confuse us a little, and we will certainly raise those

issues. We don't just mirror NIHB for Metis health benefits. We also mirror NIHB for extended health benefits. It we get into a position where we start changing the benefits that we provide to some people in the Northwest Territories like seniors or Metis, we would be in a situation where we are providing different benefits to different people. The baseline is NIHB based on the services that they provide, and we stick tightly to that. There are opportunities for exception requests. We have supported some of our residents in those exception requests. Sometimes they win. Sometimes they don't. I think there is value in being consistent within NIHB rather than creating a two-tiered health system here in the Northwest Territories for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents, Metis and non-Metis residents.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Nothing further, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Any further questions? Seeing none. Moving on to detail, page 173, Health and Social Services, active position summary, information item. Any questions. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There are a number of reductions here, and I'm just wondering if the Minister and his staff can describe what these positions are and whether they're vacant or not. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there are a number of changes. We have two positions that were sunsetted. That's an environmental health officer in Norman Wells as well as a midwife consultant in Yellowknife. We've got some initiatives where we have added some positions: two full-time, one part-time, for a total of three as a result of the increased funding and changes to the Mental Health Act. We have some internal re-allocations, one full-time, one part-time within the Beaufort Delta, midwife positions, and we have some reductions as a result of our reductions exercise, strategic human resources positions, as well as a senior project management. Of these changes, one position was filled, so we have one affected employee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Any questions. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Can the Minister advise if these positions are moved to Yellowknife or out to the regions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What positions specifically?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister was just saying there was an increase and a decrease, so there are some new positions. My question is: of these new positions? Are they moved to Yellowknife or being allocated in Yellowknife or out in the region? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I indicated, we have two positions that have been sunsetted, one in Norman Wells, one in Yellowknife. We've got three new positions that have been created, two full-time, one part-time for the Mental Health Act, and to help us with the implementation of that. Those three positions are in Yellowknife. We have some internal re-allocations. As I indicated, the Beaufort Delta midwifery positions, one part-time, one full-time, and those are to help with the planning and design of the territorial midwifery program. Those are not in Beaufort Delta. We've brought them to Yellowknife. They were never established in the Beaufort Delta. There was actually no established positions, and then the reductions are in Yellowknife.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: The Minister talked about two full-time, one half-time position for the Mental Health Act. Is this going to be able to help alleviate some of the issues out in the regions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, late in the life of the last government, we brought in the new Mental Health Act which is going to go live, I believe in January. Part of the act is the implementation and utilization of something we call assisted community treatment. These positions are going to help us bring that to reality to help provide services that are outlined under the new legislation that didn't exist under the old legislation.

We believe this is a significant step to move forward to providing better mental health services across the Northwest Territories. These positions, at least one of them is also going to help us with the review board that we are required to have under the legislation.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I get this correct, this is supposed to assist the communities or the regions with their mental health challenges and issues out there, so do we have the positions out in the region already that these people are going to be working with? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the new Mental Health Act is new legislation. It changes the way in several ways that we will be provided mental health services here in the Northwest Territories. We're also working on the mental health and addictions framework that's been raised several times in this House.

All these have to work together. The legislation gives new capacities, new responsibilities, new ways of doing business, and this new assisted community treatment service that we can provide, but it is, yes, working closely with practitioners that already exist, and given the new responsibilities under the legislation.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: No, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Further questions. Seeing none. We shall move on to page 174, Health and Social Services, active position summary, information item. Any questions? Mr. Thompson, then Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority, it shows a reduction of two positions, one full-time and one part-time. Were these vacant or full presently? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, these were internal re-allocations. I believe they were vacant, but we will confirm.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I'll just refer to somebody else right now.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. While one of my colleagues was talking reductions, I'm looking at increases in this table for the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and Tlicho Community Services Agency. There's some large increases in staff, and those are good things, I think. I just want to hear from the Minister the reason behind this. I think the Hay River situation probably has something to do with this opening of the new health centre there, but can the Minister and his staff explain the rather large increases there? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, these are for a number of reasons, and I think the Member has actually identified a couple of them already. A number of the positions that you see in Hay River are as a result of the new Health and Social Services regional centre that just opened there in order to provide services in a larger building with a different delivery method. It did require additional positions, things like emergency room nurses that they didn't have previously.

It also needed some additional positions just as a result of the footprint, how it's laid out and how they're going to provide services. That is how come you see a huge bump in Hay River. You will also notice Tlicho has a bump in positions. That is mostly as a result of the Jimmy Erasmus long-term care facility that has opened. You will notice some change in Stanton as well. Much of that certainly, I believe it's six positions, five full-time, one part-time, are as a result of the inclusion of more dialysis services within the hospital.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Nakimayak

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my only question is for the authority allocation for the Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services. I see a decrease from last year. Could the Minister explain that, please?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, a couple of those positions, or rather the

funding, was as a result of the midwifery program. There was some positions allocated to Inuvik for the midwifery program that was going to go there. The program evolved into a different model. The positions were never established, although they had showed up in previous mains. We are discontinuing the midwifery positions in the Beaufort Delta with the exception of the nurse practitioner who is providing the pre and post-natal services, working on the regional midwifery program up there in cooperation with the doctors. Some of those positions are mostly those midwifery positions that were never established or created.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thanks for that, and going down to the next region allocation, I see for the Beaufort Delta, last year the total was \$241,000, and this year is \$223,000. Just some clarification on that. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the total for region allocation in 2015-16 was \$241,000 and it's \$240,000 for this year, so it's down one thousand. There has been some additional positions added for other reasons, and some internal reallocations, positions that existed, but maybe weren't in the previous capital. They would have been unfunded. They've brought some of those in to be established.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: No. Thanks for the Minister for that. That's all I've got. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Any further questions. Seeing none. Page 175, 176, Health and Social Services, administrative and support services, operations expenditures summary. Total activity, \$77,812,000.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): We will defer this page and go to detail. Detail on 177, which is Health and Social Services, administrative support services, grants, contributions and transfers, information item. Any questions? Recognizing Mr. Thompson. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Chairman, on page 176 under the program detail, we have a category, or line item, identified as facility maintenance and support. Since the 2014-15 actuals it has gone up by nearly \$2 million. I wonder if I can get an explanation from the Minister what, although it seems self-explanatory, but what facility

maintenance and support consists of and why we might see nearly \$2 million increase over the last couple budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The two areas that have sort of resulted in this significant increase is some forced growth around some of the standard supplies that are provided to the health centres across the Northwest Territories, but a bigger chunk is actually as a result of the temporary operation of the long-term care in Hay River. The H.H. Williams were staying in the building for two years in a long-term care capacity until we can get the expansion at Woodland finished. As a result, we have to spend some additional dollars there to ensure that our long-term care is still operational. It's not part of the new hospital.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the reply. That seems to suffice for that line item. I have nothing more for page 176, and in case others do I'll let them ask their questions before going on to 177. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay. Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I noticed in the administration there's a \$2.061 million reduction. Could the Minister explain why there is a reduction compared to the main? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, our main estimates are only slightly down from last year. We had some revised mainstream in the last fiscal year as a result of some cost pressures. Much of this is a result of the pension top up that we have to provide to Hay River. We imagine that there will likely be a supp again during this fiscal year once they're able to quantify what they're pension top up might need to be to keep Hay River's pension viable.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: So I clearly understand, we bumped it up already or we are about to or in the process of? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as I indicated, the mains last year were \$13,881,000. We are slightly down based on some of the other driving factors in this area, some actuals, but the reason you'll see the revised main estimates up a little higher is every year at some we end up having to come forward with a supp based on the pension top up that is required by the Hay River Health and Social Services in order to keep their pension viable. We don't know what that cost is going to be, so we don't build it into our mains. We come back by way of supp. We've already brought one supp to this House earlier based on the 2015-16. I anticipate that we will likely have to come forward for another sup in 2016-17 once we have a sense of what they're pension top up might be. We don't know what it is at this point in time.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. I think I understand it now. We pay it and then we come back later on to keep on topping it up. Is that correct?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Hay River employees are actually outside of the public service. They have their own human resource manual, they have their own collective agreement, they have their own pension plan. They aren't part of Superann because they are outside of the public service. Every year the employees pay into their pension, but the pension also pays out people who have retired. In order to ensure that they are fluid, that they are a viable pension plan, they end up having to come back and ask for additional money every year, and this has gone on for a long time. I remember back in 2005 when I was working with Hay River Health and Social Services to bring it all under one authority, at that time, the government considered taking over and bringing them into the public service. It has cost us almost \$1 million dollars a year since then just to keep their pension viable. We anticipate that will continue to be the case until such a time as we either find a way to bring them into the public service. That's pretty much it actually.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Now I understand that. Sir, I'm good with that. I'll go onto something else. Grants, contributions, and transfers: there's almost a million dollars plus reduction. Is there a rationale for that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister. Recognizing Ms. Mathison.

MS. MATHISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In 2016-17 we had a sunset in our budget related to Microsoft licensing. We previously had funding in the budget, additional funding, to pay for licenses for Microsoft in the authorities. We no longer need that money so we took it out of the budget.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Ms. Mathison. Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the witness, Ms. Mathison, for providing that information. In regards to contract services, there's again a \$1.1 million difference between the revised main. Please explain that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

MS. MATHISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In 2015-16 we had additional money added to the budget to fund the organ and tissue donation project.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Ms. Mathison. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank you for that answer. Are we going to be doing a supp for this or was this just a one-time off on that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we got permission from the last government to do a one-time transfer from the midwifery program in the Beaufort Delta to use those dollars to do our portion of the Organ and Tissue Donation Registry in Alberta, so it's one time.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. In regards to fees and payments there's a \$277,000 reduction in that. What was the savings in that area? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the savings in this area are as a result of some reductions to the PDI Fund that we provide to our staff. We still have the fund but we have reduced it slightly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. For clarity, that's the Professional Development Initiative Fund. That fund is available to help professionals in the Northwest Territories to do non-required training, training that is beneficial but not required for their jobs to help them be more well-rounded and offer them some skills sets that aren't part of the normal job.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I'm good. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just going to figure out at what point I could ask the appropriate question. My question is in regards to the transformation efforts in terms of centralizing or getting the health authorities together under one umbrella, that was via Bill 44. I just wanted to get a sense from the Minister in terms of providing reassurance especially for small communities that have at the ground level, at the community level an input in terms of decision-making of their healthcare needs and, you know, their aspirations to ensure that we bring good quality care to people that live in communities. Can the Minister distinguish between transformation in terms of centralization? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and through the entire exercise, we heard clearly from people across the Northwest Territories that they wanted a health system that met their needs and focused on the client. We moved forward with health transformation. The residents across the Northwest Territories were also very, very clear that they didn't want to see centralization. This isn't about centralization. This is about bringing the system together to work together. It isn't resulting in positions being taken away from communities across the Northwest Territories. The frontline positions are critical care providers and must be there. It is going to result in some change of relationships across the Northwest Territories as far as how the authorities will be required to work together. Previously, we occasionally worked together and it was more goodwill than design. We have gone out and done a call for members to be on our regional wellness councils across the Northwest Territories. We received a lot of interest. We have begun and have gone through the selection process. We'll be announcing the

members of the wellness council shortly. I just have to get it through Cabinet and Regular Members before we actually finalize that, and we continue to move forward with the process of creating a collaborative, integrated system working together for the best interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. It's not centralization.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The other question that I have is the riding that I represent, of course, has four communities. Two could be categorized in a South Slave district for regional administration purposes. One of them, of course, is the Hay River Reserve and Enterprise, and then you have Kakisa and Fort Providence. How do communities ultimately decide which authority they're going to work with and is it the prerogative of communities to make their own decisions, or is it the Minister and department that decide which communities should work with what authority? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do rely on some historical precedent. I mean, some of the authorities such as the Sahtu, by way of example, are... The wellness council is going to be made up of roughly the same geographical region that the Sahtu health and social services board members were actually on. For areas where there was a question, I did have conversations with some of the leaders in communities to find out what their interests were, where they thought might be most appropriate. In most cases, they deferred to having input into the region or health authority or, sorry, health council that was the one where most of their people were going to receive services from. by way of example, K'atlodeeche opted to have representations on the Hay River wellness council as did Kakisa. No, sorry, as did Enterprise. Kakisa opted to have a representation on the Dehcho Regional Wellness Council.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This will be my last question. Perhaps in the future, a community decides for the purposes of bringing better services to their communities, how would they remove themselves from the authority perhaps to join other authorities, say, from the Deh Cho to perhaps the Hay River Health Authority. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it's important to remind everybody that one of the reasons to go to a single authority is to make sure that individuals have an opportunity to influence care where they're going to receive care and ensure that services are custom tailored to meet their communities' realities.

On a big-picture scheme, as long as they have representation, it's filtered enough through regional chairs to the territorial level of the voices going to have impact. However, as I indicated, we did have conversations with leadership at K'atlodeeche and they indicated they'd like to be on Hay River because that's where they're receiving most of their care. We are open to having discussions, but there has to be some, you know, recognition that, you know, where are you receiving most of your care? What's your proximity? Who are you close to? Where are you getting most of your services, you know, to help us figure out where people can and probably should have representation? We're open to anything. We're open to discussion. There's going to be evolution in this process. We accept that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to go back to the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority. You said since 2005 it's been costing about a million a year, some years a million and a half to top up the pension fund? We're looking at already about \$11 million. I understand to bring them into the single authority 15 years ago would have cost maybe a couple million. Now, I have heard estimates, \$20 million, \$30 million. Does the department have a plan to actually bring the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority under the single umbrella and when do they foresee that happening and how much would that cost? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can't recall the exact number that it would have cost to bring Hay River into the public service in 2005. Anecdotally, I have heard numbers of \$2 million, \$3 million, \$4 million, \$5 million to bring them into the Superann as a pension. Now we believe that number to be significantly higher. We are working with Superann. We are working with our partners to try to quantify what the exact cost to bring them into the GNWT's pension would be. We are still doing work that is going to be necessary once negotiations begin with the UNW and the Hay River Authority to bring their employees into the public service. We obviously want to see this happen. We believe that to have a truly unified health care

system in the Northwest Territories, Hay River needs to be in. I have talked to people in Hay River including staff. They want to be in, but we are currently doing several negotiations, collective bargaining, both in the GNWT, in Hay River, NWTTA, a number of negotiations. The individuals who are going to help us with the negotiations and bring Hay River into the public services, it's all the same people, so we need to finish some of this additional, this upfront work, two collective agreements, and then we'll be in a better position to figure out what the timeline will be to bring them in. We have to figure out the money. If it's \$23 million, we're going to have to figure out where those dollars are going to come from. It will be a one-time cost to bring them in, but you're right. The Member is right. I mean, we've spent a million to a million and a half a year since 2005. It's costing us money not to bring them in.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When do you expect those negotiations to happen? When do you expect to actually get an exact cost? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I can't say when those negotiations will begin, but they certainly will not begin until we have concluded all the other collective bargaining negotiations that are underway, because as I said, it's often the same people. As far as the pension costing, we are continuing to do that work. It isn't simple. Superann has a lot of questions. They have a lot of concerns. We need to ensure that whatever happens is fair and reasonable. We don't know what the cost on the individual basis might be. We certainly don't want our employees, the employees of Hay River to be in a worse position. We want to make sure that they're protected, so we continue to do the work to figure out what those costs will be, but we don't have those costs today. We have general ranges, but nothing concrete.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a little more complicated than just figuring out--than what that one number, that one big number. Are there other issues, seniority, any of these other kind of things that need to be worked out along with the final number? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That is certainly one of the issues. I mean, pension is where the significant cost is going to come from. There is no denying that, but the Hay River collective agreement is different than the UNW collective agreement. We have had some early discussions with union as we are talking about bringing Hay River in, and there are certain things that they wanted to flag and things like seniority are one of them. We have to figure those out. We can't have two collective agreements if we roll into one authority, so we have to--it's going to take some negotiations. It's not just a cost thing. It's a negotiation.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. I will leave that regional issue alone. I guess it's kind of a territorial issue when you're talking about tens of millions of dollars. I just wanted to discuss the Human Tissue Donation Act. I think this would be the section. It was passed in the last Assembly. It came into force last June, I believe, and the latest information I found on it says that we have to wait until the organ donation registry is set up before people can register. I was wondering how far along that process is, if that's going to happen in this budget year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Unfortunately, we are not as far along as we would like it. We have basically done everything that we need to do on our end. We had agreements to move forward with the Alberta government. Since their election, it has put a bit of a hold. They have indicated that they're still happy for us to come on board, but they weren't ready or prepared to actually begin that process. They had other things they needed to take care of in Alberta. We will be part of the Alberta registry, and that's what the one-time costs were to set up our portals and those types of things to allow NWT residents to access their registry. We still get indication from them that they want us to be part of the registry, that they are willing to move forward. I have had one-on-one conversations with the new Minister of Health in Alberta. She indicated to me they still want us to come on, but they haven't re-engaged, given us a timeline of when they're ready to start actually developing and doing the work. They are going through significant challenges in that province and it's a new government. We keep asking. I will continue to ask. Next time I see the Minister, I will bring it up again.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the answers. Nothing further right now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Recognizing Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to follow along with some more questions about the health system transformation. Could the Minister tell us what the cost of health system transformation is up until this point and for this fiscal year. I am not sure where to find that in the mains here. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as they look for the exact numbers, the funding that we needed in order to do the work and the analysis and the system design and all the work required to move from a fragmented multi-system, multi-competing system to a single authority was actually federal funding that we got under the Territorial Health Innovation Fund. The fund, the total fund is \$4.3 million, of which we use some of it for implementing and designing regional health strategies, some of it for medical travel, and \$2.8 million annually for the duration of implementation and design for the system transformation costs, so that's hiring the people, doing the work, doing the analysis, getting the consultants, helping with the design.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for that answer. For how many more years into the future will there be this \$2.8 million available for implementation and design? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it was three-year funding from the federal government. This is the last year of that fund. If there is any money left over for any of the three initiatives that I have indicated, if we haven't spent all the federal dollars, we can roll it forward into the next fiscal year. As far as the Territorial Health Authority moving forward, that will be our cost and we were designing a system that wasn't going to cost us any more money. We weren't asking for more money to move to this single system, but we needed these innovation dollars to help us design, implement.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I understand correctly that once this design and implementation phase finished at the end of this fiscal year, there won't be any additional costs to the department for health system transformation. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: No, Mr. Chair. I mean, at the end of the day, we're re-describing existing positions, some re-profiling some positions out of the department that are going to now be territorial health Authority positions. This isn't about growth. This isn't about creating a whole bunch of new positions. This is about utilizing what we have in a better way in a more collaborative way to meet the needs of the residents in the Northwest Territories. In the future, what you will see is a smaller department, more as a ministry function, and an authority that actually has some of the functions and roles that are in the department today, and then the authorities are going to maintain their CEOs, their positions, but the relationships, how they work together will be changed. We didn't have Government of the Northwest Territories dollars to do the design work. We used the federal innovation dollars to do the design work and implementation. From that point forward, we'll be using the health dollars.

Now having said that, who knows what tomorrow looks like? We may do some additional activities. We may come back to you, but anything we come back to you will come through this House for discussion. I can't foresee that at this point, but forever is a long time.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I take from that is that it's not supposed to cost any more money, but it could.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I don't anticipate that at this time, but as we roll forward and create this new system, new principles and ideas might come forward that might result in a change in how we're doing business. I don't anticipate that, but it would be foolish to say that change is never going to happen.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. My next question has to do with the go-live date for the system transformation. Can you confirm it's still August 1st? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, absolutely, Mr. Chair. August 1st is still the go-live date, but I want to be very clear that this is a date in a process, in a timeline. As we move forward, we go live. There is still going to be some changes, some evolution that's happening at the regional and community level as we're formulizing and making this new relationship a reality. I anticipate there will be some growing pains. I anticipate that it will take a couple years to really roll things all the way out to make sure that we're getting all the benefits of a single unified collaborative system, but the boards, the wellness councils will be in place. The CEOs will be in place. The base structure will be in place as far as making the improvements that this structure will allow us to make. Those will take time.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am wondering what the department has set up to proactively monitor the system transformation as it takes place in order to address issues that might come up? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, absolutely, and for that detail, I will go to the deputy minister, but just related to the last question, as I have indicated previously, there will be a bunch of functions coming out of the department, functions that are providing sort of core service-type services. These are going to be in the authority rather than the department. The department is going to be a ministry. We are going to phase in some of those functions from out of the department into the authority. We anticipate that phase-in is going to take about two years, but as far as monitoring evaluation, I will go to the deputy.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Deputy Minister DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. We are actually just finalizing an evaluation and monitoring approach for the initiative that will have a number of components. One obvious one will be simply tracking the financials that Members have asked about, additional costs, and we are keeping very careful track of how we are spending the federal funding and also tracking the cost of moving to the new structure. Secondly, we are putting together a proposal for an implementation evaluation, so after about 18 months, we will work with external evaluators to take a look at whether the evaluation has gone as we thought it would,

had there been unanticipated problems. The joint leadership council, the new board of management for the authority will, of course, be giving us feedback in terms of what the regions are hearing through the regional wellness council, so if they don't think it's going smoothly, we will hear about it. Then finally as part of our funding agreement with Health Canada, we have been asked to work with one of the Pan-Canadian health organizations to do an outcome evaluation, so we will be developing a proposal to work with the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement three or four years down the line and take a look at are we seeing a change in health outcomes and the services that are delivered to people, because that's the driving argument for making this whole transformation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Deputy Minister DeLancey. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am happy to hear a comprehensive system of evaluations is going to be developed that don't only consider the financials but also the patient experience and hopefully the benefit of having everyone together. My last question in this section is when the Minister expects to announce the regional wellness council memberships. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I anticipate to give the MLAs a heads up hopefully by the end of this week, and after that, we will notify the successful candidates, two, three weeks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of questions. Regarding the organ and tissue donation one-time costs, has this been paid to Alberta already? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Not yet.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Where is this money being held then, if it's one-time payment? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Normally, because it was O and M dollars, it would

lapse, but given that these dollars are going to be used for a technical or a project infrastructure-type thing, we're looking to have those dollars rolled over into capital, and then we can roll them over into the year or to the next year so that we can continue to work with Alberta.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thanks for that clarification. I was a little concerned if we would be rolling over O and M every year and it's good to see that it's going to capital. If we're still having the challenges, we'll be there. In regards to your answer to Ms. Green there about ministerial role versus authority role or core functions, and you talked about the ministry or the department shrinking a bit, with authority, is the department and authority actually shrinking, or is it we're going to still have the same amount of staff, just that one will be a ministerial role which would be smaller, and then authority will cover the carrying, the rest of staff. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the Member described it pretty much exactly right. The department will become a true ministry focused on big-picture policy, big P-type initiatives. Anything that is considered operational or will have direct impact on client delivery will become authority. It's not a matter of shrinking. It's a matter of aligning it in the appropriate area. Ministry will be smaller. Authority is going to have some additional functions, some things that are currently delivered either at Stanton or in the department, which really should have been operational to begin with.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you for that answer. with this authority, are you going to be--because right now, we have all these authorities and they don't actually report to the Minister. Will this authority now be reporting to the Minister and with these other authorities, or is it a chain of command where it goes to the boards and it was just a relationship with the chair and the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I've committed to providing the Standing Committee on Social Programs or Social Development, or whatever it's called today, sorry, a comprehensive briefing on health transformation, at which point we'll be describing this. But in short, and we will certainly go into more detail, some of the changes that we're seeing are a result of an

audit that was done by the Auditor General of Canada that said basically our system lacks all accountability and that there is no real solid reporting mechanisms, just streams. The board reports directly to the Minister. The Minister does have an ability to provide direction to the board in the new model, which means the Legislative Assembly has the ability to provide some direction to the board on a territorial model. There are some direct links as far as reporting information, data, and answering questions from CEO through the Minister and through the department. There's more lines of accountability, more clearly articulated lines of accountability in this new structure, but we'll go through all that detail in much greater detail when we meet with Committee.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Hopefully, this will be my last question. I realize that you will be trying to get a briefing. But there seems to be about three or four other briefings that you'll be in front of us on, so I think that one may be a little bit behind. I'm just a little concerned with this authority. If we have issues, will we be still going to a public administrator or will we be able to fix issues beforehand, and so we continue to, you know, have a better system in place so we don't have to bring in public administrators? Because that does concern me. Then the regional boards do not have the say and the power to do things. Is that the rationale or is it one of the rationales to making sure that we don't have to bring public administrators in? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Chair. Mr. Chair, in the new model there are no public administrators with the exception of Hay River until such a time as Hay River comes into the single authority. There are board chairs and there are regional advisory committee members. Those individuals are intended to help us, you know, make sure we're hearing from the people of the ridings, of the communities, bringing their information forward, helping us tailor programs to fit communities and regions. The chairs of the regional wellness councils are the board of the new authority. I'm answering the Member's question. I'm not sure I totally understand the Member's question. But there are clear lines of accountability outlined within the legislation, who's responsible for what, and it's articulated in the legislation.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Maybe I didn't explain myself clear enough. With this new authority and that, will we be required to bring public administrators in? Because I know right now you've said we're getting regional boards and that, and Hay River has the one until they become part of it. In the past with authorities you've had to go in with public administrators. Will this new process ensure that this doesn't happen again? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I'm going to allow a reply, but we seem to be leaning more towards page 168 and 167 on the organizational chart and getting beyond and outside page 176 and 177. I'll allow the Minister to reply, thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Still not 100 per cent sure I understand the question, Mr. Chair. Under the legislation there will be board chairs for each of the regional wellness councils. Those board chairs are going to form the territorial authority, there is one authority. Other members will form regional wellness councils. In the legislation it allows us to basically keep Hay River as they are until such time as we roll them in. As a result, there will be a public administrator who is technically acting in the capacity of chair of the regional wellness council that we've established in Hay River, but will still maintain the public administrator role until such time as we bring Hay River in. In all other authorities, with the exception of Tlicho, which is defined under the Community Services Act, it's going to be board members and Members providing advice and guidance on the regional operations and chairs providing advice and guidance at the territorial level. There won't be any more public administrators, except for Hay River.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions to page 176? Moving on, 177. Go ahead, Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. French language services in 2014-15 had an amount of \$215,000. Last year and this year is \$856,000, an increase of \$640,000. Can the department speak a little bit about what is included in French language services, maybe why there's nearly a million dollars required every year to deliver French language communication? Maybe we'll start there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. These dollars all flow to the authorities for the provision of French language services during the provision of health care. This is a direct result of a court case against the Government of the Northwest Territories which the GNWT lost, and it

was negotiated how we would meet that ruling in that court case which resulted in significant dollars following into not just Health and Social Services, but all the departments; Education, Culture and Employment, to ensure that we can provide services to our residents in French.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that explains to some degree why the increase to \$640,000 from 2014-15. Would it have been that the court case ruling came after that 2014-15 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I can't remember the exact date of the court case, but it was actually a number of years ago. It took the Government of the Northwest Territories a couple years to actually figure out how we're going to bring in this or meet our obligation under that court ruling, and we rolled it out during the 2014-15 fiscal year.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the department have any particular obligation as it relates to Aboriginal language communication services throughout the department? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do have an Official Languages Act here in the Northwest Territories that recognizes 11 official languages, and we attempt to provide services as much as we can in those official languages. If you go to Stanton, by way of example, if you move around that facility you'll notice that there's signage for all the official languages in that facility. We try to ensure that official languages are posted in facilities across the Northwest Territories, health facilities. We attempt to have interpreters available to provide language services to individuals who request them. It can be challenging at times, but we do our best to provide those services in the official languages.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Mr. Chair, just for some clarification. You know, I want to be respectful here, with all due respect to court cases and positions that governments are put in relevant to judgments and decisions. We're identifying here nearly a

million dollars a year required to, you know, deliver French language communication. I respect that we have an act that recognizes all 11 official languages, including French. I'm wondering, you know, this is a fairly large chunk of money and I don't want to deny that it's being put to good use. I'm just troubled to understand why we have nearly a million dollars in this regard here, and seemingly we don't have a line item relevant to the Aboriginal language communications and services. Maybe some explanation might be warranted there, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The dollars that are coming in are as a result of the court case. It may be better to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment some of those questions. As a result they are responsible for the actual... They lead the rollout of the response to the court case. Just for the record, the court case was based on a constitutional challenge against the Government of the Northwest Territories which we lost, and we had a constitutional obligation to meet the remedy that was outlined by the courts. This is Health and Social Services' part. There is actually much larger budget related to that court case that is spread across all the departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories. We provide our Aboriginal language services from within the existing budgets that you see in front of you and flow those dollars to the authorities who provide appropriate signage, arrange translators for the different Aboriginal languages. We also provide bilingual bonuses to our staff. There's many mechanisms by which we try to provide or ensure we're providing appropriate language services across the Northwest Territories for the different language groups.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.,

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for the explanation. Under health and social services authority funding, the explanation identifies funding to health and social service authorities for the provision of administration and support services. It's the largest contribution for \$41,426,000. It's increased by a few million since the actuals in 2014. Do we expect that this amount might go down as we see the new system transformation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. . These dollars cover things like basic administration, client support services, some of the direct costs by

way of individual authorities, some facility maintenance and support across the different authorities, their finance costs, human resource costs and some of their system support costs. These are things that are happening in the authorities today. I don't anticipate that these dollars are going to go down with a single authority because, as I've said several times, this isn't centralization or taking anything away from the communities or regions that exist today. They are still going to require CEOs, they're still going to be providing services in their health centres, and they're still going to require human resources or still going to require staff. . We don't anticipate a drop in this area as we roll out the one authority.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understood when we got briefings given to us in the early days of this Assembly that there in fact was going to be some economy of scale identified in the transformation, in the system transformation, and that we were going to be able to help the authorities with matters relevant to, you know, hiring and procurement, things of that nature. In the last couple of years, we've seen increases as it relates to this line item. I would have thought that maybe there would have been some efficiencies identified and that there could be a possible future reduction with the new system transformation. I don't know if the department cares to comment on that, but I thought that that was the expectation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in the previous government, as with this government, I've been very careful to say that the health transformation is not about reducing costs of the healthcare system. But, absolutely, we anticipate we're going to find some efficiencies, whether it's through purchasing, purchasing together, we're going to be able to share some finance services, you know, cross-training. We absolutely anticipate efficiencies, but we don't anticipate dropping the budget as a result. One of our priorities is actually to do some deficit recovery. Currently, the eight authorities combined have almost \$50 million in deficit, so we have to build in our deficit and recovery into our plan. We're hoping to use some of the efficiencies that we attain to help offset some of our costs which means, ultimately, once we've reduced our deficit, we should be able to have some additional dollars to invest in healthcare. But I don't anticipate dropping the budgets in these areas immediately or at all.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move past that item and move to Tlicho cultural coordinator. I'm happy to see in the description that Canada and the Tlicho are one-third partners with the territorial government in funding this position. All I really am asking here is: why is there just this one particular position identified in this particular part of the budget? Are there similar positions funded in other regions throughout the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this is a direct result of the Tlicho Agreement, their land claims agreement, land claims and self-government agreement. It's articulated in the legislation. This is us meeting our obligation under that legislation. They're the only group in the Northwest Territories that has finalized self-government negotiations. This could be something that exists in the future, if negotiated, with different Aboriginal governments.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for the explanation. That seems to me that that would have been easy enough to have identified originally in the explanation that's in here regarding the position. That's all my questions for page 177, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Moving on. Recognizing Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is in relation to that same page, but it affects just the recent recognition of the need for Dene fonts in terms of parents registering their children with their traditional First Nation names. I wanted to understand: what is the cost in terms of implementing the formal recognition of Dene fonts and its use in the vital statistics. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we're looking at coming forward with some amendments of the Vital Statistics Act that will allow us to include Aboriginal names and appropriate fonts within birth certificates and other documents within the Northwest Territories. We've done some early assessment, but we don't have a full costing of that change at this point. When we have better information on the costing, we will

certainly share that with committee and the Member.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If the Minister could also maybe indicate, state in terms of the timeliness, in terms of the full implementation of recognizing the Dene fonts and its use in the vital stats. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as I've indicated, I'm hoping to bring forward legislation for first and second reading during this sitting, at which point it will be in committee's hands for 120 days, which means the earliest it will be able to be in front of the legislature for third reading would be the fall sitting. If passed, and I stress if passed, then we will have to identify an appropriate implementation date that gives us time to actually change our system so that we can utilize the different fonts that exist within our Official Languages Act, the 11 official languages, so that we can produce our documents using those official languages. I don't have a set timeline. Some things are still up in the air as far as, you know, if the legislation passes, if I'm able to get it in front of the House. I anticipate I will, but, given that there are some uncertainties, I'm unprepared to commit to an actual date at this point.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Perhaps this is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just seeking to understand whether... You know, we purport in one instance to recognize 11 official languages, including Aboriginal languages. Now we finally recognize the Dene font. Am I missing something here? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. Mr. Chair, with respect to some of our legal documents, such as our birth certificate, although we had an obligation under the Official Languages Act, our documents only recognize the Roman alphabet in the production of those documents. There was an official languages review done by the official languages commissioner that indicated that it would be appropriate, given that we have an Official Languages Act here, in the Northwest Territories, that our legal documents could include all of the official languages and utilize the appropriate fonts. I have asked the department to move forward with the changes to the Vital Statistics Act that will allow

us to use Dene fonts in our Aboriginal languages on some of our defining documents. I intend to bring that legislation forward during this sitting, at which point it will be in committee's hands. Once it passes, hopefully in the fall, we will be in a position to begin operationalizing that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. No further questions on page 177. Moving on to page 178, Health and Social Services, administrative and support services, active positions, information item. Any questions for page 178? Seeing none, page 176, Health and Social Services, administrative and support services, operations expenditure summary, total activity \$77,812,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Moving on to page 180, Health and Social Services, operations expenditure summary. This will be deferred. Moving on to detail, page 181, Health and Social Services, ambulatory care services, grants, contributions and transfers, information item. Any questions? Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to understand again. Maybe we could get an explanation from the Minister: why was ambulatory care services established as a separate key activity? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, these changes came into place during the last main estimates process. What we were trying to do is to align how we report all of our finances within our authorities to be consistent with CIHI reporting. Ambulatory care is one of the areas that we were required to report on, but we didn't always align those financially. They were all spread out in different areas. Last main estimates, we've brought everything in line; all the authorities report on the same criteria, and the department now reports to the same criteria to be compliant with CIHI and a few of the... Oh sorry, the Canadian Institution of Health Information. We're now consistent with how they report and how we are required to provide them with data.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Yes, thank you. Again, Mr. Chair, I'm just trying to... Maybe... I don't know if the Minister or his officials would have access to just a total figure amount for in one year how much money is expended in terms of medevacs out of small communities into Yellowknife. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do have the dollar figures that were expended in previous years for medical travel and medevacs. I'm sure I can get the department to break it down on what the cost per region was for medevacs. Would that suffice?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Yes, thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We'll do that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Further questions. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I notice it's an increase of \$1.3 million compared for the main estimates from last year. Is there a rationale for the huge increase on this? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it's a bit more than that. We have \$1 million forced growth for out-of-territory hospitals; we have got a \$47,000 forced growth on supplies, and we have a \$1.23 million in forced growth for the dialysis requirements in Stanton.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The numbers that the Minister talked about just seem to be a little high compared to the numbers I see on this page, which are \$24,403,000 and the Main Estimates were \$23,083,000. The Minister just quoted a couple, about \$4 million increases. Or 2.3, sorry. What I'm trying to figure out is where the discrepancy is. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The discrepancy is because I jumped back a page. The out-of-territorial hospitals, the forced growth doesn't appear on page 181, but it is included on page 180. This whole area in total did get an increase of about \$2 million in those areas, the ones I outlined previously.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does that correction, notification, suffice there, Mr. Thompson? Go ahead, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's forced growth for this area. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That is correct, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much. That clarifies it.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just under home care and support services, as the Minister knows, we're shortly going to be completed the elders' home in Fort McPherson. What's the process of getting the home support workers set up, and when will you be advertising and preparing for that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm a little confused. What line is the Member referring to? I don't think homecare falls under this section. Actually, homecare doesn't fall under this section. What line is the Member referring to?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay. It's just been pointed out to me that that item is in the next summary. If it's okay with Mr. Blake that we can defer that to the next summary? Thank you, Mr. Blake. Anything further, Mr. Blake?

MR. BLAKE: No, not right now.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Questions on page 181? Seeing none, back to the expenditure summary, Health and Social Services, ambulatory care services, operations expenditure summary, total activity \$62,694,000. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Moving on to page 183, Health and Social Services, community health programs, operations expenditure summary, total activity \$152,585,000. We will defer that and move to detail. Starting with page 184, Health and Social Services, community health programs, grants, contributions and transfers, information item. Questions. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe we are supposed to be on page 182. That's the part I

was going to ask questions on. Is it okay to proceed?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay. Before we move on to page 184, we'll recognize page 182 and address it. Mr. Blake, go ahead.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry I got ahead of myself on page 181, there. The homecare and support services I was referring to a little earlier is kind of in partnership with Housing Corp. I would just like to know when this position will be put out to the community of Fort McPherson, just so we're not rushing around when the actual facility is completed. Is that part of Health? I believe, in Aklavik, the Housing Corporation actually put out the notice and everything, but I'd just like a little information on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, Health and Social Services and its authority are responsible for home care in the Northwest Territories. We do know that the Housing Corporation has gone out and, recognizing the need for seniors' housing, has moved forward with independent living units, including those independent living units in Fort McPherson. They have also, you know, incorporated space within those independent living units where some day program and other services can be provided, whether it's by home care nurses or home care support workers. Much of that's going to depend on the size of the community and the capacity and the needs. We are looking at our complete contingent of home care support across the Northwest Territories in light of the work we're doing with Our Elders: Our Communities to ensure that we are providing adequate home care services across the Northwest Territories. We're working to quantify what that means. I don't recall off the top of my head what the make-up of home support positions in Fort McPherson is, but I will commit to getting the member a bit of a summary on what we're providing by way of services in Fort McPherson and where we need to be going over time.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as the Minister may recall, the last couple years I've been bringing up the need for more home support workers in the community of both Fort McPherson and Aklavik. They did hire another person in Aklavik, which was great, but there's a big demand in Fort McPherson. We have over, I believe it's 170 elders in the community, and we have one home support worker. There's a big demand there. There's clearly a need for another person to,

whether it's stay in that facility, like we have in Aklavik. It should be a similar arrangement. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is exactly why we're moving forward with the home and continuing care action plan. It's going to help us identify what we currently have, where the demands are, where the draw is, and what we need to do to meet the ongoing demand for home care services across the Northwest Territories, including small communities such as the ones the Member has described.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. No further questions right now. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Moving on. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd just like to follow up with Mr. Blake's questioning. With homecare workers, is there part of this plan, are you guys looking at communities providing this service? In the past, there was in Fort Simpson the band used to run it. Now the authority took it over. If you're looking at expansion, would the communities be given that opportunity to provide that service? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, we have a consultant who is working with us on the development of this. We're open to possibilities. I am a strong believer that communities have great ideas and great solutions and that it's important to have partnership where appropriate. We've demonstrated that we're prepared to think outside of the box in some of our relationships with, you know, the Inuvialuit and the Sahtu, I mean, I don't know what the model would look like that the Member is describing, but, you know, it's about providing services, and we're open to creative solutions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I find that the band that was actually in Fort Simpson was actually doing a strategic plan, and that was one of their concerns, that it was taken away for whatever rationale. I don't know when it happened. It's just that we used to provide... They had a contract providing homecare for the elders and that, and the

department took it over. The workers are good. Don't get me wrong. It's just that the band was trying to figure out what it was. I'm hoping that the consultant can discuss that with the band and see how it can be addressed. I'm hoping the Minister can get the consultant to go see the band or talk to the band about it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm pretty sure that the situation the Member is describing didn't happen while I was here because I certainly don't remember it. It must have been a long time ago that it actually happened. The piece that I said after the mic went off was: Anything we do still has to be within standards, so it has to meet certain criteria. We're open to that. I'm happy to have discussions with the communities, with the regions. I'll be travelling with the Member to visit his communities at some point. I'm sure we'll have an opportunity to have that discussion and hear what the leaders are thinking.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: This is, hopefully, my final question on this, regarding this page here. When we talk about homecare, we have a new facility going into Fort Liard. Is it going to be Health and Social Services staff being hired to look after these people, or is it existing staff? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm assuming the Member is talking about the independent living unit that's being developed for or put into Fort Liard. The facility is an independent living unit. It will have some program space dedicated for some day programs and whatnot that can be delivered by home support workers or other staff that exist within the community.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson. Recognizing Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Earlier today, the federal government announced \$70 million in new funding over three years to address the health and suicide crisis involving Indigenous people living on reserve and in the Territories. It does appear that most of these, the largest parts of this funding, are going to be addressed towards Nunavut. I'm wondering if the Minister has been in touch with Ottawa about this and if we know some of this money is going to be Northwest Territories to help with our mental health problem. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I saw the same press release that the Member did. I had a quick conversation with the department and staff are getting in touch with Ottawa to figure out what those dollars are, how they intend to allocate them, and what, if anything, may be available to residents of the Northwest Territories. It does not mean that the dollars would go to the GNWT. They might go to the Inuvialuit. They might go to different groups. They might come through us. We don't know. The department is trying to figure out those details right now.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Minister for his answer. Is suicide prevention encompassed in this line item, this community mental health and addictions, are suicide prevention programs? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, yes, it falls under this area. You'd find some of it under community mental health and addictions, health promotion and community wellness. It's certainly within this area.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I note that our colleagues in Nunavut have taken some action on suicide prevention in their territory. I wonder: When is the last time the Department of Health and Social Services studied our suicide rates and the efficiency of our prevention programs and kind of drilled down into the information? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, actually, a report was prepared late in the life of the, or halfway through the life of the last government. It was certainly, I believe we tabled it here, in the Legislature. Following up with the recommendations under that, we are still providing dollars for things like Mental Health First Aid, ASSIST, and other suicide prevention and support programs for youth across the Northwest Territories. To that end, we're also taking what we learned through that report as well as the Minister's Forum on Mental Health and Addiction to develop a new framework for mental health and addictions

here, in the Northwest Territories, which is going to certainly address some components of the challenges that we're facing around suicide. We'll keep moving forward with things like ASSIST and Mental Health First Aid. I'd strongly encourage all Members to attend one of the Mental Health First Aid training courses here, in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Does the department provide funding or operate a crisis intervention hotline with frontline staff who are prepared to assist people experiencing a mental health crisis? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do have the NWT Helpline. It's available 24-7 for individuals who are struggling, regardless of where you are in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I note that under contributions we find the on-the-land healing fund. That's at \$1 million. I'm more familiar with the on-the-land programs through the Department of Justice, but I know there are some difficulties with rolling those programs out. What is the department's experience with the on-the-land healing fund? Is most of that money accessed and spent on these programs? How successful are those programs, based on feedback from clients? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Can I ask, Mr. Testart, this on-the-land healing fund is actually on page 184. We haven't closed page 182 yet. This is one of those chapters where you started your summary and you had to go back to your previous page, so it gets a little confusing, then, moving back to the right-hand side., Moving on and maintaining continuity, we'll move on to page 184. Then I will give the courtesy to Mr. Testart to carry on to the on-the-land healing fund.

MR. TESTART: Same question, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. After you turned the page, I clearly forget everything I was discussing on the previous page... No. I'm just kidding. I totally remember the

question. The government, as a result of the Minister's Forum on Addictions, we actually came forward with funding to support on-the-land programs. We provide that money to the different Aboriginal governments, regional governments here, in the Northwest Territories. We recognize that, although we have some clinical expertise, when it comes to on-the-land programming, those programs should really be delivered by the people in the regions where they're being delivered. We actually flow money to the different Aboriginal governments, Inuvialuit and Sahtu, Tlicho, who actually design their programs. Occasionally, they ask us to be involved as far as providing some of our clinical expertise, but they actually design and run the programs. It's really great, actually. We have a wide range of different programs. We have some regions who have decided to do more aftercare-type programs. We've got some regions who have decided to do more prevention-type programs. We have some regions that are doing more of a real on-the-land sort of healing program and some where they've really focused on bringing youth and adults together. We've got a wide variety, and we're getting huge uptake. We're spending the dollars. The communities or the regions are running these different programs, encouraging people to attend. We are finalizing some evaluation of them. It's been two years since we've put them in, put these dollars in. We're currently evaluating some of the successes so that we can share those successes across the different communities and regions so that good ideas can be stolen from one region and utilized in another. We have some pretty significant uptake on these, and they are out there, and they're running, and they're working.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The evaluation, can the Minister speak briefly about the evaluation criteria and whether or not we're going to clients on their experiences with the program and the successes of the program directly and how they had an effect on clients' lives in treating some of these issues? I appreciate that it's a success in terms of rolling the funding out and getting the programs offered, but I'm looking to see if the department is taking a very critical eye to how effective these programs are and then can share those successes with our own Indigenous governments and governments across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Deputy Minister DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. One of the key points about the design of this fund, as the Minister noted, is that we don't try to run programs that will work for regions across the territories. We

give the money to the experts, which is the Aboriginal governments. They often top it up, and they design what works and is needed in their region. This makes it a challenge to come up with an evaluation framework, so we've tackled this in two stages. We have, of course, reporting requirements. We get information from the Aboriginal governments, what programs they ran, how many people participated. We get some client satisfaction feedback. We're then, for phase two, we have started working with two of the Aboriginal governments to look at how do we develop an evaluation framework that has enough flexibility that it allows us to do the things the Member is talking about, which is tracking those longer-term outcomes, also allows the Aboriginal government or Aboriginal sponsor to track the things they care about. It becomes quite complex. You overlay that with the complexity of: what is an effective treatment program? Sometimes it's just helping somebody take that first step. It's not a straightforward outcome evaluation, so, as I say, we've addressed it in two parts. We do get activity reports. We do get all the information we've asked for. We're trying to work in partnership to take it to that next level. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Deputy Minister DeLancey. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When does the department anticipate that they'll have some results to share with the public and Members of this House or a complete... Or, if we're not ready for results, then perhaps that final piece, the evaluation framework?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we can share some of the outputs right now, actually, as far as, like, how many people attended, some of the results from the satisfaction surveys, those types of things. It's the deeper sort of evaluation that the deputy was talking about that we're developing the evaluation framework now. That one is going to take a little bit more time, but I'm happy to provide the Members with some of the more immediate output stuff. I can provide that to committee. I probably just need a couple of days to get it sort of put together in a format that will be good.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Minister. I am interested in kind of that deeper dig into seeing the... I didn't hear a date on when we can expect the work to be completed. I know these things take time, but I can only assume

that the department has a timeline it's working on; it's not just an infinite date. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I missed that part of the question, obviously. The evaluation framework is going to be developed and finalized this fiscal year, and then data will flow over time. The evaluation framework will be done this fiscal year, so we should have some initial data. With this type of analysis, we need a couple of years of data to really be able to make informed decisions and opinions about what's happening. I can provide the more immediate stuff to Members, up to date, from what we have.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: I just had some quick questions on the Mental Health and Addictions funding. As a contribution, how does that differ from the community mental health and addictions, the bulk of the funding? Who is currently receiving it, and what kind of programs are being operated? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to confirm that the Member is talking about the mental health and addictions line that's \$450,000, just because there are multiple lines here where it falls under.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. Testart, if you can, add clarity to that question.

MR. TESTART: Yes, that's correct. The mental health and addictions contribution in the amount of \$450,000, and it's described as "funding to support organizations in the delivery of mental health and addictions programming." I note that it is in the 2014-15 Actuals. It was \$277,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Some of it, \$100,000, is going to Mental Health First Aid and ASSIST. \$300,000 is going to addictions, aftercare, youth addictions prevention, youth detox models, mental health, and some into the Akaitcho health curriculum. To break it down into more detail, \$17,000 is going to Beaufort Delta, \$25,000 to Deh Cho, \$5,000 to Fort Smith, \$13,000 to Hay River. Now the lines are starting to blur. Sorry, those were last year actuals, so that sort of

shows how it breaks out across the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Nothing further, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Similar questions but a little different on the On-the-Land Healing Fund. I know there's a few programs that went on in Aklavik, but there's a couple... I think it was a year or two ago they had sort of a regional on-the-land program. It was sort of tied to residential school, but I know it was, I believe it was, down at Reindeer Station. A lot of elders really, really enjoyed that. You know, it really helped them a lot, and they'd like to see more programs like this, whether it's down at Reindeer Station or, you know, at the Gwich'in Healing Camp which isn't being used. You know, it's a shame. They have this facility set up out there for on-the-land programs, but there's just no funding to go. I know that you say you're giving funds to the land claim organizations, but I'd like to know: what is the breakdown by region for funding out of this million dollars? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the Member's point, I mean, I agree. We provide these dollars. We don't dictate what program they design. In some cases, regions have actually pooled it with other money to do bigger initiatives. We offer every region \$125,000 of the \$1 million. Some have better uptake than others. I can give you some breakdown of the 2015-16 Actuals.

The Akaitcho Territory Government utilized the entire \$125,000. The Deh Cho Friendship Centre took \$40,000. The Gwich'in Tribal Council got \$144,000. The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation got \$325,000. The Inuvik Community Corp got \$39,000. The Sahtu Dene Council got \$125,000. Sambaa K'e Dene Band got \$62,000. The TCSA got \$125,000. That was our million dollars. There's a lot of different groups working on on-the-land programming. I mean, Justice has done some. I think Education has funded some different aspects of on-the-land programming. It's going on at the different regions. The Government of the Northwest Territories is participating in an on-the-land collaborative to bring different stakeholders together so that we can lobby other stakeholders for money that might be able to be used for more on-the-land programming. I'd like the deputy

minister to go into just a bit of detail on the on-the-land collaborative.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing Deputy Minister DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Just as the Member said, there's great demand for on-the-land programming and we know that our funding in GNWT is not enough to meet the demand. We've worked with Tides Canada, our department, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; we have partnered with Tides Canada to look at a model that's been used elsewhere where we set up a collaborative and invite other agencies to put money on the table. That collaborative is in its early stages and this year, just earlier this year, the first funding pot of \$300,000 was rolled out to applications from across the Territories. That's not a lot of money, but what we're hoping is by GNWT putting in a little bit of seed money and we put in about \$200,000 this year, we can get the big foundations to come to the table and start growing that pot. I believe the Minister will be tabling a report on that initiative during this session. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Deputy Minister DeLancey. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know it's been two years since this program has been sort of going in this direction from having the treatment centre here in the NWT, and you know I can appreciate, you know, us sending people to the south. With what the department is saying they want to sort of move towards more on-the-land healing programs. It's pretty clear we need to fund this more here. Mr. Chair, a million dollars just... It's not doing enough for our people that have a lot of needs in the territory, you know. We have to have better programming in place here. As I've said before, we have to have some sort of template that the communities could follow because it seems like they're developing their own programs here. You know, we need some sort of template for people to follow and more funding because in my riding a lot of people are telling me the elders want more programs at the Gwich'in Wellness Camp, but we're just not getting the proper funding here. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we were out discussing this with the different Aboriginal governments we heard that they didn't want a cookie cutter approach. They wanted to be able to do things their way based on the realities in

the different regions. However, we recognize that, you know, there are great things happening in different regions, so we've been pulling together the best practices and highlighting, and demonstrating, and showing the different regions what's happening in the other regions so that they could steal good ideas and things that work. We were also making clinical staff available should the regions request it during some of their on-the-land programming. We are able to participate as asked and as wished by the different groups that are pulling together. This isn't the only thing that's happening in the Northwest Territories. What we heard clearly during the Minister's Forum on Addictions is that people wanted options and they wanted to be able to make choices in the Northwest Territories and on-the-land program is an important one that people were asking for. But we were also providing community counsellors in every region, most communities in the Northwest Territories. We've got different programs like ASSIST, we've got the Matrix Program which is outpatient community-based treatment as an option for individuals. We're able to do some things by Telehealth. We've got contracts with four facilities in the south. Now, that we have an expedited process, we finally started to see some increased usage of those southern facilities, more so than we ever had in the Northwest Territories when we had a local facility here in the Northwest Territories, so we're starting to get more people going to these facilities because the facilities offer a wide-range of programs and options that never existed in the Northwest Territories before. We're providing on-the-land programming, we're working with Tides Canada to see if we can get, you know, more interest, help invest in more programs. We have more services available today for individuals that are struggling with mental health and addictions than we ever have. I'm not saying that it's perfect. I'm not saying we're meeting all the needs. A lot of work still needs to be done. We're doing that work through our new Mental Health and Addictions Framework, but today we have more options available than we have before. I think we're on the right path. More clearly needs to be done. I take the Member's point. Beyond the land program, it is proving to be popular and we're getting really positive, you know, anecdotal feedback that it's helping people.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. There's still time for another question, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just under the Community Wellness Initiatives Fund, you know during my last visit to Aklavik a constituent thought it'd be a good idea, and I'm not sure if this is proposal driven whether, you know, the department would be open to a proposal that the community could put into –a... You know, work with a lot of the

elders that have arthritis. There doesn't seem to be much programs to help them exercise or you know to... Right now the only solution they have is to give the elders Tylenol it seems. You know, there has to be something more in place to help the elders, whether it's exercising or finding other ways to help our elders cope with their arthritis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I mean without seeing the details, we can't say sure, but that sounds like that meets the criteria for this particular fund, and obviously we'd love to see a proposal, but I mean until we see the detail it'd be impossible to say whether it met the criteria or not. We could share the criteria with the Member, he could share it with the community and I mean we'd be happy to see a proposal.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Blake. None? Recognizing Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of rounds of questions for the Minister. The first one is on page 184, under contributions, there's an early childhood development action plan. I see that there's actually a reduction of \$100,000 there, and I'm just wondering if the Minister can explain that because I understand it early childhood development is one of the best investments we can make as a government, so I'm just wondering what the reduction is all about. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there was some money transferred to the authorities for \$81,000. There was the sunset on the regional early intervention coordinator's position, \$18,000 that was for some O and M costs, but there was also an increase as the result of some northern allowance for its growth. Basically an internal transfer and some sunset.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, thanks, Mr. Chair. While I encourage the department to find more money for early childhood development and for working with the Minister on the 2017-18 budget. I want to go back to one of his favourite topics which is midwifery. Earlier the Minister talked about how there was a consulting position that was sun setting around for midwifery. Then I understand that there's two people doing work that had been hired as consultants on midwifery. Can the Minister explain what position was sunsetted and why we hired two

other consultants? I think I know the answer to the second part, but can you just tell us what's going on. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm happy to answer the question now or we can wait till page 195 where that actually falls. It's up to you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly. Do you want to just wait or you want to have another question addressed on page 184?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I thought midwifery was in this section under community health programs because that's where it's found in the business plans, but if the Minister's telling me that I should wait until 195, that's fine I can wait until then.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): I will allow that question on midwifery. Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this section is not the section that would be in, but I could see why people would think it would be in this section. There have been some changes of where things lay out as we come in line with how CIHI report, so I totally appreciate that. In previous budgets, there was some money allocated to the Beaufort Delta for the roll-out of a midwifery program in the Beaufort Delta. There was supposed to be some positions established. They were never ultimately established but the money was still there. We are basically eliminating those dollars that were to be spent in the Beaufort Delta. We had been in a previous year one time allowed to spend some of those dollars to do the organ and tissue donation which we did but the funding still technically existed. Given that we're not rolling out a midwifery program similar to other midwifery programs in the Beaufort Delta, those funds were no longer required for that purpose. However, those positions are gone even though technically they were never established. I know it gets a little confusing. There was no people tied to those positions. They didn't exist. What remains in the Beaufort Delta is the nurse practitioner responsible for the midwifery program as part of more OB which is a physician-led birthing program in the Beaufort Delta. That's one NP that's doing some the pre and postnatal stuff that a midwife would do and working with community health nurses to ensure that we're expanding the pre and postnatal work that a midwife does so that's what's happening up there. All the additional money is gone. We had used some of those dollars to establish some unfunded midwifery consultant positions in the department.

Now we're officially establishing those in the department so they actually show up within our budget. It gets a little confusing. We had an old one through different funding that sunsetted, so now we've brought some of the leftover Beaufort Delta money to actually establish it so that we can maintain it to continue our planning. We've set it up so we have one-and-a-half positions that are dedicated to doing the design on the territorial midwifery program. I can get the department to draw a chart that will hopefully explain how this is a little confusing. When you see it, it makes a little bit more sense, probably a lot better than I'm doing explaining it right now. Here's how it ends. At the end of the day, we've got the midwifery support-type position through an NP in Beaufort Delta. We've got two positions in Fort Smith providing midwifery, we've got two positions in Hay River providing midwifery, we've got one-and-a-half positions in headquarters doing our design on the territorial midwifery program. That's what it looks like. How it got there is a little convoluted.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly... Directed to 184, 195, as mentioned earlier, would discuss the financial supports to midwifery services.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The reason why I'm asking these questions about midwifery here is because it's community health programs, that's where midwifery was found in the business plan. I don't know why the Minister is talking about nursing when I want to talk about midwifery, but anything he can do to help clarify would be great because if I wasn't confused before by his explanation, I certainly am now. If he's got a diagram that'll help that would be great. I guess at the end of this we still don't have midwifery services in Yellowknife, and that's why we had a person in the gallery earlier today who had to go to Hay River to have her birthing with a midwife there which is kind of ridiculous. Why does somebody have to go to Hay River from Yellowknife to get midwifery services? I look forward to getting this stuff resolved so that we can actually offer the services in Yellowknife which would also help surrounding communities as well. If he can give me information or give the House information about what the heck is going on that would be really helpful. My last question though is: there are midwives that would like to practice in Yellowknife. Are they able to practice in Yellowknife now or do we have to wait for the department to sort this out? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks. Mr. O'Reilly. I'll allow that second question to go, but on the basis of the information as the Minister said it was going to be provided on the organizational chart and the finances, or the funding, to support midwifery will be deferred to 195. Go ahead, Mr. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as I indicated, the way that the mains are presented are to line up with how we are required and needed to report for CIHI for tracking data, so we're to create a logical system. I hear the Member that there's some confusion about how it is between the business plan and the mains. We will work to make sure that everything's lined up. Midwifery services under CIHI falls under nursing services recognizing that midwifery services aren't exactly nursing services but that's where CIHI has put them, so that's why they're identified in that particular section. We will work to make sure it's clearer in the future and that it's consistent with our business plans as much as possible. At the end of the day, I hear the Member. We have to take the report that had a number of different recommended models for the Northwest Territories. We are exploring the possibility of a Territorial model. We are working on design. I've answered a number of these questions in the House before. I'm committed to midwifery services but I recognize that there are challenges. I mean we have to make sure that the physicians are supportive and buy in. We have to make sure that we're not making it difficult for physicians to maintain their competency especially those that are in obstetric services who are responsible for births here in the Northwest Territories. We're doing this planning, but we're also making sure that, you know, moving forward that we're prepared to offer these services. By way of example, we're building a new health centre at Norman Wells. We don't have midwifery services there, but we hope someday we will. That new health centre in Norman Wells actually has a room dedicated to midwifery services all plumbed appropriately to put in birthing tubs. We are moving forward with birthing tubs and other facilities in the new Stanton building that can be utilized possibly by midwives. We're doing work recognizing that that's a direction we want to go, that we want to be supportive of midwifery services. We still have to build a business case and bring it through this House and get a budget supported. Given our fiscal situation, we're going to have to find that money from somewhere which means we have to be prepared to look at reductions as a way to make these dollars available.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing the time and having said the issue of the midwifery would be deferred for further questions or debate underneath pages 195, inpatient nursing programs, go ahead, Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that committee report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognize that a motion is on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I

will now stand and report progress. Thank you, Minister.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. May I have the report, Member for Sahtu?

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 50-18(2), Main Estimates, 2016-2017 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, we move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the Day for Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion

16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 50-18(2), Main Estimates, 2016-2017
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House adjourns until Tuesday, June 14th at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:04 p.m.