



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2nd Session

Day 22

18th Assembly

HANSARD

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Pages 701 – 750

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Great Slave)

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, June 16, 2016****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon colleagues. Ministers' statements. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 55-18(2):
DEVELOPMENT OF THE NWT AGRICULTURE
STRATEGY AND FOOD PRODUCTION PLAN**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to develop and implement an agriculture strategy to increase domestic food production, improve distribution networks for NWT-produced foods, and to increase producer and supplier opportunities. The price of food is a significant driver of the Northwest Territories' high cost of living in all of our communities, Mr. Speaker. Equally important in supporting and growing our vibrant communities is diversity in localized economies. Mr. Speaker, the need for an agricultural strategy to advance economic opportunities in the agriculture sector was first identified in the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy. An agriculture strategy will also assist in lowering the cost of living by improving food security by encouraging local food production. Thanks to the investments and hard work of dedicated producers in all communities with the support of the federal government Growing Forward 2 agreement and departments across the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is now in a position to formalize an agriculture and food production strategy to address our commitments in these areas.

This strategy, Mr. Speaker, is built upon input received through community engagement events hosted during the summer of 2015. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment worked in partnership with the Territorial Farmers Association, Northern Farm Training Institute, and

the NWT Association of Communities. These findings were collected and released in a "what we learned" report. The report identified five pillars that the strategy will be based on.

The first pillar is planning, which will encourage the proactive development of community-specific approaches to food production and government, both territorial and local, doing their part to ensure legislative and regulatory regimes are in place to support safe community food development. Knowledge, the second pillar, focuses on training and food production, developing an online public agriculture info base supporting mentorship and getting youth involved through experiential training. Leadership will include localized community committees to identify and support individuals with a strong interest in and commitment to food growing and gathering across the territory. Mr. Speaker, the marketing pillar will see the review and revision of policies surrounding food production in the Northwest Territories, investing opportunities to create incentives for local food production and consumption. Developing marketing channels and exploring opportunities to encourage greater value-added opportunities for food production in the Northwest Territories. Our strategy's final pillar, enhancing access to resources, will include increasing the availability of soil, land, energy, heat and financial and food production infrastructure through strategic investments and incentives. We are preparing to share the draft strategy with standing committee, Mr. Speaker, with the recent groundswell of support for agriculture in the Northwest Territories, I look forward to discussing this plan with Members and to moving it forward so that we can begin delivering on these pillars for our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I were not to recognize the organizations who have worked tirelessly building our agriculture capacity to where it is today. The Northern Farm Training Institute has provided opportunities for mentorship and education and farming and agriculture to Northwest Territories' residents for two successful years. We are confident their dedicated staff will continue to play an active role in the sector's future. Our Northwest Territories Territorial Farmers Association has also worked in tandem with various organizations to deliver innovative programming to Northwest Territories' communities over the years.

We thank them for their efforts and look forward to working with them in the future. We are pleased to have partnered with CanNor to provide further funding for feasibility studies and for greenhouses in our communities. With the installation of greenhouses in communities on the Beaufort Sea we now have a food production sector stretching the length and breadth of our territory. To that end, the Inuvik Community Greenhouse also deserves recognition for supporting investments and initiatives to bring growing capacity to communities in the Beaufort Delta where there once was none. Finally, we must recognize the great work done by our largest commercial success story in Polar Egg. The company has been providing fresh high-quality eggs to our northern jurisdictions for many years. We salute these entrepreneurs who brought life to the Northwest Territories' first commercial agricultural venture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 56-18(2):
CHANGES TO THE INCOME ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment provides many critical programs and services for some of the territory's most vulnerable residents through its income security programs. Through our ongoing efforts to continually improve these programs, I'd like to share with you today a significant change to the way we will be supporting families with children. On March 22nd, the federal government announced a new Canada Child Benefit to come into effect in July 2016. This benefit combines a number of previous federal government benefits available to families with children. The new Canada Child Benefit will provide more money for low- and modest-income families with children. These changes have implications for our Income Assistance Program. Under the current system the Income Assistance Program considers some of the previous federal children's benefits as income. We are revising our program so that none of the new Canada Child Benefit is considered as income, to ensure our residents receive the full benefit. This is extremely good news for our residents and the steps we are taking will help our most vulnerable residents immensely. Mr. Speaker, in addition to not counting the Canada Child Benefit and the NWT Child Benefit as income, as of August we will also no longer be considering any child support a parent may receive when calculating income assistance payments. While we continue to believe child support is an important component to ensure both parents contribute to the cost of raising a child, we are no longer requiring income assistance

clients to pursue child support as part of the Income Assistance Program. I am also pleased to announce a joint initiative that is underway with our colleagues at the Department of Finance. The departments are working together to make enhancements to the NWT Child Benefit that will provide additional financial support to more low and modest income NWT residents with children, and not just those accessing income assistance. As we need to work with the federal government and make changes to the NWT Income Tax Act, we plan to implement these changes to the NWT Child Benefit in 2017. Mr. Speaker, this is significant. We believe that these improvements to the Income Assistance Program will help to raise children out of poverty and are an investment in the future of the North. For a family with two children that is receiving income assistance, these changes along with the new federal Canada Child Benefit could add up to \$614 in increased monthly income. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work completed in support of NWT children and families. I look forward to updating Members as we continue to work to implement the changes across the Income Assistance Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 57-18(2):
K'ATLODEECHE FIRST NATION
IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to work in partnership with other orders of government to address affordable housing requirements and to support Aboriginal local governments in their housing aspirations and initiatives to address homelessness. We are delivering on that commitment, and I am pleased to tell you today that a new partnership initiative between the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and K'atodeeche First Nation that will let us deliver housing services and programs on reserve land. The core housing need for the Hay River Reserve is nearly 40 per cent, Mr. Speaker, one of the highest rates in the territory. It was imperative that progress be made in this area. Delivery of social housing on reserve land presents unique challenges because of the requirement for secure land tenure. However, recognizing their members need housing programs and services, the K'atodeeche First Nation went through the land designation process, allowing the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to secure a land lease for property on the Hay River Reserve from the Government of Canada. The K'atodeeche First Nation and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation worked closely and diligently to achieve this result, assisted by the

Department of Justice and the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. As a result of this work, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has recently acquired 10 units on the land designated by the K'atodeeche First Nation that will be rented to their residents under the Public Housing Program. We are also working to acquire six more properties. These are significant actions to bolster and stabilize rental housing on the reserve, which totals less than 90 households. Mr. Speaker, a collaboration of this kind with the K'atodeeche First Nation, under such unique land and governance related circumstances, is an example of what we can accomplish when we come together to remove barriers and work on solutions across all levels of government to meet the needs of our community residents. We hope that the spirit of this partnership can act as a blueprint for future collaborations with other Aboriginal and local governments to overcome challenges they may be facing in meeting their housing aspirations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 58-18(2):
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVITALIZATION
STRATEGY FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to finalize and implement the Commercial Fishery Revitalization Strategy. I would like to share with Members of this Assembly, the work the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is doing to revitalize the Northwest Territories' commercial fishery and broaden the NWT's economic horizons. I look forward to sharing and discussing the revitalization strategy with Members in detail but would like, today, to provide a high-level outline of how our collaborative approach aims to jumpstart commercial fishing in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, this Strategy is built on four pillars: increasing lake production, building processing capacity, growing the Northwest Territories market, and accessing export markets. These will guide the tactics of industry and government stakeholders moving forward. Increasing lake production will focus on support for re-establishing the winter fishery and incentives to increase participation in the fishery. There will be collaboration among stakeholders to assess and implement the price structures necessary to attract and retain talent in the fishery across all seasons in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, building processing capacity is also essential to success as local processors in Hay River and Yellowknife are already operating close to maximum-capacity and

servicing only 15 per cent of the Northwest Territories' potential market. We will focus on collaborating with our federal partners to fund a processing plant in Hay River with the capacity to process large custom orders, hold product for up to six-weeks, and meet Inspection Act requirements to appeal to large retailers. There will be consistent work with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to develop appropriate supply-chain measures to support the viability of processing operations in the territory. Growing our local market goes hand-in-hand with increasing processing and harvesting capacity. This strategy identifies a target of 230,000 kilograms for the Northwest Territories' market, a target which current production capabilities cannot fulfill. The strategy outlines options for industry and government to achieve our ambitions. Mr. Speaker, accessing export markets will be essential to bringing our commercial fisheries to the next level. It will require all stakeholders to do their parts in optimizing and aligning processing and production cycles. Discussions between the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to find the most feasible way forward in these pursuits have already begun. We will be working with fishing co-operatives already doing great work here to ensure their interests are well-represented in the process. With smart development, careful management, and strategic partnerships, our world-class fish stock has the potential to provide significant employment opportunities and revenues to entrepreneurs and individuals within our territory. We as a government have a duty to act on these kinds of opportunities. At a time where our constituents' desire for a more diverse economy has seldom been stronger, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is pleased to be doing its part in making growth in this renewable resource-based industry a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCREASED SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTING LIMITS

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, sole-source contracting is the buying of goods or services without competitive bidding. In February, the Finance Minister announced changes in the limits for granting of sole-source contracts. The sole-source contract limit for goods and non-professional services was increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000, for professional services from \$25,000 to under \$50,000, and for architectural and engineering professional services, to under \$100,000.

Sole-source purchasing is governed by the procurement guidelines of the GNWT contract regulations. The procurement guidelines list a series of criteria, standards, and evaluation points which must be met. They allow purchases where delay would be “injurious to the public interest,” or “only one party is available or capable of doing the work.” Sole-source purchasers must complete an authorization request explaining the circumstances which make sole sourcing necessary. The criteria would appear to make the practical exceptional. In reality, it is common place. The most recently published 2013-14 GNWT report of contracts over \$5,000 shows that \$41.6 million was spent on sole source. Sole-source appears to be a mechanism allowing middle to senior managers to conveniently make purchases without the delays or administrative burdens of bid contracting or price negotiation. Now, those levels of convenience are dramatically larger, raising large concerns. At the very least, routine use of sole-source purchasing can lead managers to resort too frequently to non-competitive supply. Without reporting to the marketplace occasionally, purchasers may be unaware of product improvements, price shifts, and the availability of new sources of supply. Competitive bids which accrue savings of as little as \$1,000 per contract could accumulate major savings across the volume of small contract purchasing. It is a fact that \$25,000 to \$100,000 is no longer a small purchase. Raising the ceiling on sole-source contracts will negatively impact many northern small businesses. It is the smaller contracts that northern businesses bid on because they are compatible with their capacity. While we may not like to speak of it, these higher levels raise the possibility of malfeasance and corruption in the spending of public funds. These elevated amounts increase the...

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Yellowknife Centre, your time has expired for Members' statements.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These elevated amounts increase the possibility of kickbacks and preferment. I'll be looking for a much more rigorous oversight in this process, and I'll have questions for the Minister. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TROUT LAKE TRADITIONAL PLACE NAME CHANGE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in front of you and our fellow colleagues to speak about one of the communities I represent. Mr. Speaker, in 1796, the Northwest Company established a post on Trout River. However, it did not become an organized community until the late 1960s. Trout Lake is one of the most remote, beautiful, and traditional communities in the Northwest Territories. The residents are very proud of their culture and language. Approximately 70 per cent of the residents between the ages of 15 and 39, and 100 per cent of residents ages 40 and up speak their traditional language of Slavey. The community of Trout Lake is governed by Sambaa K'e Dene Band chief and council. As in the past, hunting, fishing, and trapping are still part of their daily lives. According to the 2015 NWT Bureau of Stats, approximately 85 per cent of the community still hunts and fishes, approximately 48 per cent of the population traps, and approximately 47 per cent of the population produces arts and crafts. As you can see by these numbers, these percentages, you can guess that consumption of country food would be high, and you're right. Eighty-five per cent compared to NWT's average of 26 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 23 years that I've worked with the community, now representing them, September is a time for the community fall hunt. Mr. Speaker, it's amazing watching the community pack up and go out on the land for the number of weeks. It is about tradition, sharing knowledge, family, and community time. What I find amazing is this community has continued to grow in population since moving to the region. I witness the population grow from 70 residents to 110. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say the community has done well, has done a good job increasing the territorial formula financing for the GNWT. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to inform this House that the Executive Council has approved the change of the name of the geographical place and community named as Trout Lake. Mr. Speaker, the change in name from Trout Lake to Sambaa K'e will take effect on June 21, 2016. Mr. Speaker, Sambaa K'e means “place of trout” in Slavey. I'd like to congratulate the Sambaa K'e First Nation chief, council, and residents for doing all the hard work to request returning their traditional name to the community. As well, I'd like to thank the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for his recommendation and Executive Council for approving this. Mr. Speaker, there is this first step of the community as they work to bring back our traditional names in the surrounding areas. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give a big

round of applause for the community soon to be named Samba K'e. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SKILLS CANADA
PARTICIPANT AND MACKENZIE DELTA PAGE
GORDON PAPIK

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mandate for the Skills Canada National Competition is to encourage and support a coordinated Canadian approach to promoting skilled trades and technologies to youth. This is the only national multi-trade and technology competition for students and apprentices in the country. Every year, more than 500 young people from all regions of Canada come together at nationals to participate in over 40 skilled trade and technology competitions. Students must compete at our local, regional, and territorial events to gain their place, to represent the Northwest Territories at the Skills Canada National Competition. I would like to congratulate one of my constituents, Gord Papik, who in fact is already in the House working as a Page representing the Mackenzie Delta. Gord competed and placed in regionals and territorials. He moved on to nationals in Moncton, New Brunswick where he demonstrated workplace safety. Upon returning home to Aklavik, Gord had one night's sleep after which he boated to Inuvik to get on a plane to travel here to Yellowknife to work as a Page. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Gord.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. That's what you call dedication. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF LUCY
DILLON

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I just wanted to pay respects to one of the elders in Tuktoyaktuk. Lucy Dillon was born in 1951 in Kittigazuit in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to Kelly and Rosie Ovayuak. Lucy was the fifth-oldest of 11 children. She attended the Anglican school in Aklavik, Stringer Hall in Inuvik, and Akaitcho Hall in Yellowknife. After moving back home to Tuktoyaktuk, she began a career working as an administrator. She worked at that for years before she embarked on a new direction in her career. She worked as a secretary for Mangilaluk School for several years. From there, she moved to the wellness side of community service, where she spent many years with the GNWT, Mr. Speaker. She eventually worked for the regional wellness division of the IRC at the community level. Lucy

was common law to Eddie Dillon and they eventually married in 1972. They had five beautiful girls together and adopted a son. She was diagnosed with colon cancer and went through the treatments. She had a tumor removed after complications from cancer treatment. On June 14th at 1:00 a.m., Lucy peacefully passed away at home with family by her side. All five girls and her 16 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren gathered in Tuk. Rest in peace Lucy, as you are in a better place now. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences and prayers go out to the family as well. Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC LEGAL
EDUCATION AND THE CLOSURE OF THE
COURT LIBRARY

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in almost every province and territory, organizations have been set up to provide essential legal information to the public at large. These non-profit and non-governmental groups believe that citizens cannot fully understand, much less exercise their legal rights unless they are informed and understand the laws that affect them. These groups differ from a lawyer's office or a legal aid clinic by providing general information on the law rather than legal advice for specific problems. Mr. Speaker, I was curious about public legal information in the NWT, and through the Canadian Bar Association, I was directed to a defunct page of the Department of Justice here in the Northwest Territories. I would like to advise the Minister, if I may, that the department ought to address this before it's more than just a curious MLA trying to find information. Luckily, Mr. Speaker, Google exists, and it directed me to the Northwest Territories Legal Services Board. Although it has no website, when I called their number, I was redirected to legal aid, which is by no means responsible or expected to provide public legal education. I wasn't giving up so easily though, Mr. Speaker, and Google, rather than the information provided by the Department of Justice for the public, came through again. The Law Society of the Northwest Territories is the governing body for all lawyers in the Northwest Territories, and thankfully, also provides some resources for public legal education. All these dead ends shows that this territory lacks the public legal education provided in almost every other jurisdiction, but at least we have the law library, or not. Recently, the Department of Justice announced plans to close the territory's only law library by the end of this fiscal year, and I quote from the Minister, "it is just not economically responsible to keep it open."

Mr. Speaker, no library was ever opened to be economically advantageous. They exist as a resource for the public to expand its knowledge and awareness through having free and easily accessible sources of information. Libraries are important, a law library even more so, and if the government goes through with this policy, the NWT will be the only province or territory without a physical law library. Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure accessible, free, and public legal education and information is available to Northerners, and I will have questions later for the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDATION SITES ALONG GREAT BEAR LAKE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, my statement is directed to the Minister of Lands in regards to the remedial cleanup opportunities along the shores of Bear Lake. As the public would know, there is a number of old mine sites that have taken a long time for their remedial cleanup, and as a part of devolution, I think these need to be concentrated on. The flip side or the other opposite side of the remedial cleanup opportunities is the economic wealth that it would generate. During the slow economic, idle times now, what better way than to review the environmental land management system and do an audit. If so, if maybe there is one underway that could be utilized and expedite this a little bit faster. Later on, I will have questions for the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCREASED SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTING LIMITS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the need for the government to support our small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Northwest Territories. We have spoken at length in this Assembly about the need to diversify the economy, to support northern entrepreneurs, and to make sure our government's spending supports our growing private sector. To that end, we have business incentive programs to support northern businesses which face higher costs, and we have policies and regulations that make sure that our businesses and entrepreneurs can compete fairly for government jobs and contracts. Similar to my colleague, I am concerned with some recent changes in the government's policy on sole-source. Mr. Speaker, in the interests

of timing and efficiency, some contracts are allowed to be offered without tender or negotiation processes, in other words, sole-sourced. In the interests of fairness to all potential bidders, those contracts are limited and conditions are applied.

Mr. Speaker, the Financial Administration Manual sets conditions under which sole-source contracts can be awarded. They are allowed only if delay in purchasing would be harmful to the public interest, or if only one supplier is available. Recently, Mr. Speaker, the Minister changed the conditions and brought in major increases in the allowable amounts for sole-source contracts. The maximum value of sole-sourced contracts for goods and nonprofessional services was increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000, the limit for professional services was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and the limit for architectural and engineering professional services was increased from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received an email from a small business constituent who seems to have been directly affected by this change in policy. The company was awarded a contract with a value of \$10,000 in 2012. This year, a similar contract was sole-sourced to another agency, which was not even a business. This change in sole-source practice without consultation does not fit our commitment to transparency, Mr. Speaker. The awarding of such a contract does not fit with our support of the small business sector, and the sole source of a contract for which there is more than one local supplier does not seemingly meet with the conditions of the sole-source policy. Mr. Speaker, it may already be time for change of the sole-source policy. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I'll have questions for the Minister of MACA. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ADHERENCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On May 10th, Canada finally removed its objector status to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and announced its unqualified support for the declaration. In ratifying its acceptance of the 46 articles of the declaration, Canada takes on responsibility to uphold and implement the wide variety of goals and actions itemized in the declaration. Canada's action follows more than eight years after GNWT unanimously endorsed the declaration by resolution of this Assembly on February 19th, 2008. The federal announcement marks the beginning of a long process of harmonizing Canada's laws with the

standards set in the Declaration, and improving the country's relationship with Indigenous peoples. The federal government has announced its priority commitment to a renewed process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. I'd like to draw Members' attention to one of the declaration articles in particular, Article 19, which says: "States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerning through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them." A recent Dene Nation media release says, "the challenge is to find a mechanism to include Indigenous peoples in the Northwest Territories and their governments to work jointly with GNWT to determine priorities for spending." Very true. Mr. Speaker, last week, our Premier co-chaired the inaugural Federal-Provincial-Territorial-Indigenous Forum in Ottawa and was chair of its Aboriginal Affairs Working Group. Media reports indicate that the declaration was a major agenda item. I will have questions for the Premier on the substance and outcomes of those meetings. The declaration in its extraordinary new requirements for investigation and action creates obligations for our own government. GNWT was a leader in 2008 in embracing the declaration. We have a leadership seat at the national forum dedicated to achieving the aspirations of the declaration. This government is also turning its attention to things such as new post-devolution legislation and regulation for managing our natural resources. In developing new resource management systems, it is not clear how we will meet our own obligations under the declaration. I will have questions for the Premier later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
COMMISSION FINAL REPORT

MR. NADLI: Masi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this November will mark the 20th anniversary of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, or RCAP. After five years, public hearing and community visits, the commission issued 440 recommendations, including 66 directly to the federal government. If that process sounds familiar, Mr. Speaker, remember this month, we marked the anniversary of another commission, one with a very specific focus. It has been one year since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada or the TRC, released its report on the devastating and intergenerational impacts of the Canadian Indian residential school system.

Mr. Speaker, both my parents attended residential school. My father was not allowed to speak his language when he attended residential school and he only spoke French when he left. Mr. Speaker, these effects are still unfolding and being felt today. The work of the RCAP and the TRC took place against a backdrop of continuing impacts of abuse experienced in residential schools across the country, as well as the social and political legacies of actions from the Oka crisis to Idle No More. Like the RCAP, the TRC made recommendations. Ninety-four calls to action addressing a wide range of subjects including child welfare, language and culture, health, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, or UNDRIP.

Mr. Speaker, have we made progress? In 2006 on the tenth anniversary of RCAP, the Assembly of First Nations graded the Government of Canada's performance. Overall, the feds received a failing grade. They earned an A on only one item, to establish Aboriginal Day. That's not to say the situation is entirely bleak. Real changes have been made including the federal inherent right to self-government policy and the work towards self-government here in the NWT. This government's commitment to the Dehcho process, the Daniels decision made this year. Recently, the federal government even reversed the past decision and recognized the United Nations Declaration. When the Chair of the TRC commented on its one-year anniversary, he said "the message needs to be that the progress needs to be constant." Mr. Speaker, all of us must read and understand the words of the TRC that our words must be backed up with actions and our actions must be funded. As Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come of the Cree Nation says, "First Nations should not be the administrator of their own poverty." Statements of reconciliation and actions and plans have been made, but initiatives for individuals, families, and communities are needed to address the effects of residential school impacts. There is a need for healing and wellness at the community level. Twenty years from now, our successors must have cause to stand in this House reflecting on the fair level of Canada's governments and people who heed the TRC's calls to recommendation. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF THE OIL AND GAS
INDUSTRY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the summer of 1919, eight men made the six-week journey from Edmonton to Norman Wells in search of oil. They travelled by railway, riverboat and foot, bringing with them a drilling rig

and an ox named Tommy to power it. Tommy and the crew worked tirelessly that summer, drilling a hundred feet into the permafrost before the cold of winter forced them to halt operations. During the winter, Tommy the Ox continued to serve the men, served to the men in stews and as steaks.

---Laughter

The next summer, the crew hit oil and the rest is history. I share this story to show people that even with our infrastructure challenges and our harsh environment, we can attract investment in the oil and gas sector. Six months ago, I might not have been saying that, but we hit the bottom of the commodity cycle and we are on our way back up. Oil is hovering at around \$50 a barrel, up from its 13-year low in January. While there's still uncertainty in the market, there's a considerable amount of optimism as well. The potential is enormous. The NWT contains over a third of Canada's marketable light crude and natural gas resources. Earlier this year it was confirmed that the Liard Basin contains 77 trillion cubic feet of marketable gas in the NWT. In the Bluefish and Canol fields alone, there's a 190 billion barrels of oil. Industry proponents have said that oil needs to be at \$75 to make these fields viable. But the Mackenzie Valley Highway extension could reduce exploration and development costs by up to 40 per cent. Suddenly, the territory is looking much more attractive to investors. Mining has been an economic driver in this territory for 75 years, but we can't forget the benefits the petroleum industry has delivered and has the potential to deliver. Just think about Tuk in the 70s and 80s or look at the fact that the only community that rivals Yellowknife in terms of average income is Norman Wells. The opportunity to capitalize on our resources should be extended to all regions and that means investment in infrastructure, the settling of land claims and the development of an oil and gas strategy. Our failure to provide adequate social programs often dominates talk in this House. The simple fact is that the government needs more revenue to provide those programs. We can only do so much with what we have. We are blessed with world-class resource deposits and we have a duty to ensure that all citizens benefit from them. Not just those in Norman Wells, or Yellowknife or Tuk in the 70s. This Assembly inherited a government that for decades has failed to deliver the pipelines, highways and regulatory environment that we need to support our people. It is time we start delivering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize my two Pages from the Mackenzie Delta, Taylor McLeod and Gordon Papik. Also in the gallery, I see we have Mr. Reid and Mr. Saturnino. Welcome to the House. Mahsi.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize a couple of constituents of Inuvik Twin Lakes. Dave Reid, who's a long-time educator in the Beaufort Delta and knows a lot of people about Sonny's age and...

---Laughter

And Mr. Nick Saturnino who coached the junior girls curling team the last number of years and they've done very well in the national scene. Appreciate the work they do and welcome to the gallery.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize Mr. Nick Saturnino for his commitment and his service in the public service area for the GNWT as well as his dedication and hard work to the junior girls curling team and all his success he had as their coach. Also to Mr. David Reid. I'd like to thank him for his contributions to the education system. He just retired. Wish him the best in his future endeavours and he's also been a contributor to at least three MLAs that are sitting in the House today. Mahsi cho. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hay River South.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize two Pages today, Kaitlyn Ring and JD from Hay River. I'd also like to thank all the Pages for their hard work this week, especially with extended hours. Also Myrtle Graham, my CA for assisting with the Pages there this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Miss Annie Goose from Ulukhaktok, who's doing translating service and all the other translators who are providing services for us this week, I really appreciate it, especially during the long hours. Also to Mr. Reid, I know Mr. Moses mentioned that three of us here I think, Sonny and I kind of gave him more of a hard time in school than...

---Laughter

Than all the good boys. Thanks, Mr. Reid for putting up with us. Welcome.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize your interpreter for the last couple of weeks from Tu Nedhe, Mary Rose Sundberg. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I'd just like to welcome everyone in the gallery as well. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Member for Frame Lake.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 10-18(2):
ALLAIN ST-CYR GRADUATION

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to congratulate Camille Rourke, Josee Martin, and Nadia Wood on their graduation from Ecole Allain St-Cyr. I wish them all the best with their future studies and encourage them to be ambassadors for the francophone language and culture of the Northwest Territories. Masi.

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 235-18(2):
COMMUNITY ACCESS TO HOMELESSNESS
FUNDING

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made a eulogy, but today I have questions for the Minister responsible for Homelessness. In many cases, NWT residents lose their homes to fires, mould, and in my region, soil-line erosion, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister of Homelessness is: the Homelessness Assistance Fund provides only one-time funding, which means that once you've used it, you can't use it again. What other options are available for residents experiencing housing crises? Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for Homelessness.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Homelessness is a serious issue that we don't take lightly. The HAF program, the Housing Assistance Fund is meant to provide one-time assistance so that people that are at risk or in homelessness situations can get the assistance

needed to provide them with support so they can get into secure housing. However, within that, we recognize that there are some issues, so we really try to do counselling for people because often when people get to the point where they have lost their houses, there's underlying issues. It could be poverty, it could be addictions, it could be a multitude of issues. We provide counselling for people as well that are in those situations so that we can address underlying causes that so to ensure that they won't be in that situation again. People are really encouraged to seek assistance from your community social workers to deal with any kind of mental health, trauma, addictions or any kind of concerns that they may feel are that are not able to maintain them in housing, as well as the counselling support that the LHOs within each community will provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, my second question is what is the status of planned work to enhance the women's shelter, women and emergency shelter care in Tuktoyaktuk for 2016 and 2017?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The corporation realizes that the shelters and the foster care shelter is really important and vital to our communities as it provides a safe place for our children in this case and for women that are experiencing family violence. In order to do that, we try to maintain them as best as possible. The NWT Housing Corporation did receive federal funding for renovations for family violence shelters and we've met with the, we've got together with the five shelters and we've put all the money on the table and we've asked them to kind of prioritize what they see as the needs. On top of that, the Housing Corporation has gone into each of the family shelters and done an assessment of what they think the needs are and what we see that what we can look at fixing for them. Within the shelter that we're talking about, however, there is, both of them are really likely to require replacement. The renovations in that shelter would be substantial. 'We're just trying to review what the best course of action would be to provide another alternative for that shelter.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, my final question is: what is the status of planned work for the Nunakput communities, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, and Ulukhaktok, to help these communities to access homelessness funds?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Working with the communities and getting the communities to actually prioritize their own needs is something that the Housing Corporation is working towards and will be a big focus within our community surveys that are coming out lately. Within these regions actually, we did get their priorities. Currently, we have two

multi-year agreements to support the homeless priorities of the Nunakput communities, Sachs Harbour Community Corporation. We have funding in the 2016-17 budget for food programs, community homeless planning, community kitchens and food banks. The community itself identified that their specific focus is on a food bank for the homeless and the less fortunate. We're working towards that. The hamlet of Paulatuk, for our 2016-17 monies, the funding will go for teaching people who experience homelessness and who are at risk of homelessness, learning how to cook healthy food, working with Nutrition North and so far, it's been really successful in that community. We're looking at community-driven solutions and working from where they want us to go.

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

QUESTION 236-18(2):
INCREASED SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTING
LIMITS

MS. GREEN: Masi, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. Anyone reading the government's Report on Contracts over \$5,000 will see that sole source purchasing is sometimes for very large amounts of money. In 2013-14, the Department of Executive awarded a contract for \$457,000 for organization design services and another \$187,000 was awarded sole-source for hiring an Ottawa lobbying firm. It would be interesting to know why the delay in these, in two service needs would have not have been known so far in advance that they would, that they could have planned ahead for a competitive process. My question for the Minister is to ask him what kind of oversight, audit and challenge is applied to ensuring the requirements of urgency and unique source are met before the contract is awarded. Is there any oversight applied before the contract is awarded? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, in the Members' statement, she makes some very strong comments and used very strong language. I think it's unfair to those within the government system that administer a lot of these contracts to hear such language. I can assure the Member and all Members that there is oversight and in this day and age, with all the checks and balances in place, that type of, if any of that type of activity went on, it would be detected quite early and it would be unacceptable. There is oversight. The sole-source negotiated contract was the change in the numbers was one that was well received by the business community and we had their support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, my question again for the Minister of Finance is: what kind of oversight is provided in this area to ensure that these sole-sourced contracts meet the requirements of urgency and unique source of supply before they're awarded?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, when they're going out for a sole-source contract, the policy states that if it was something that we had to do right away, then we would go to a sole-source contract. In the smaller communities, this is one that's well-received because the price for goods in a lot of smaller communities is \$5,000 and once it was raised to \$25,000, that gave them an opportunity to be able to land some of this work and not have to go to a public process or a tendering process, which for \$5,000 is a lot of work and a lot of administration. I can assure the Member that a lot of due diligence goes into these contracts before they're awarded.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like the Minister to tell us, what oversight is applied to ensuring the requirements of urgency and unique source of supply are applied to sole-source contracts before they are awarded.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I would like to repeat the same answer I gave before that significant oversight goes into these contracts. It's just not one that they woke up this morning and decided they're going to award a sole-source contract today. There are requirements that need to be met. If they meet the criteria, then sole-source contract could possibly be awarded.

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

MS. GREEN: Masi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister answered my question I would stop asking it. But at this point, I have no detail on what kind of oversight is provided on sole-source contracts so that we know they meet the needs of urgency and unique source of supply. Masi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I didn't really hear a question there. I take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 237-18(2):
INCREASED SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTING
LIMITS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I want to apologize. At the end of my Members' statement, I indicated that my questions would be for the Minister of MACA and in fact, it's for the Minister of Finance. I just wanted to correct myself there. I thank my colleague, who went before me

and asked some questions around this same subject matter. Quite frankly, a few of my questions have been answered. I will put this one forward to the Minister. It seems as though we are having some, these changes to the sole-sourcing limits are having some degree of impact on small business and local business and to some degree and being fair, negative impact. Will the Minister commit to developing some way in which to monitor and evaluate these impacts over a certain period of time and then be able to report back to the Members of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a change that has just been made recently and I will commit to the Member and all Members that we'll monitor the usage of these sole-source contracts. Again, as I answered to the Member previous, this was an initiative that was fully supported by a lot of the small business community and a lot of business and we were actually encouraged to consider because there hasn't been a change, I believe, since 1993. I will make the commitment to monitor and we do have to file a contract report \$5,000 and under. I think the Minister of ITI tables that, so we'll monitor and I'll keep the Members updated as to the usage of these sole source contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 238-18(2):

PRICE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MODULAR AND STICK-BUILT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in our last sitting, the Minister of Housing said that there was a 30-per-cent cost savings from modular versus stick-built. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please provide the House of a breakdown of how this calculation was derived? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The average percentage was based on the stick-built price the Housing Corporation received as part of the public tender process, compared against the design build process, received for module homes that were awarded. The NWT Housing Corporation is not permitted, under the tendering and contracting rules to provide specific detailed information on each proposal, but we can say, that on average, the prices received for stick-built, was more than 30 per cent higher than

the module prices. In some case, the per cent was actually much higher. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for her answer. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister worked with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to see if this decision has an impact on income security in the communities where modular units are being built or being brought in, instead of the stick-built process.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I can't specifically talk about programs that are offered by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, but I can say as participants in the capital planning process with other government departments, the government considers distribution of projects so that we don't overtax individual communities with excess projects in one year. The NWT Housing Corporation relies on the BIP, Business Incentive Policy, when contracting projects and this process includes adjustments for local involvement. The Business Incentive Policy evaluation process was designed to support local contractors in bidding on projects. As well, all of the social envelope deputy ministers are working together to breakdown program and policy barriers that may impact our residents of the NWT. Another partnership I'd like to mention is the apprenticeship program that the Housing Corporation is involved with. It's one example where we're trying to train our local residents so that they can succeed in the trades and we can get more proponents within the communities. Currently, we have up to 15 apprentices annually.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for her answer. It seems like there's some work there. I would hope that the two departments, Education, Culture and Employment and Housing would start working together to see what the impact of modular homes are versus stick-built because of the income support issues. Mr. Speaker, in the last sitting, the Minister answered a question from Mr. Blake, the quote from the Minister of Housing Corp, "though in all honesty are still using our community members to do the repairs, so you're not forgetting about them." Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please clarify what she meant? Does she mean the repairs on these modular homes or the stick-built homes?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Repairs, renovations and minor capital projects need to be completed annually on both public housing and home ownership programs. The NWT Housing Corporation has a significant capital plan for 2016-17, \$47 million, which includes repair and renovation budget of \$18 million. \$10.5 million is for repairs and renovations for NWT Housing Corp assets \$6.5 million is for home ownership repairs and renovations. \$1.1 million is for minor capital repairs. Renovation and repair work for the Housing

Corporation assets and home ownership units has been consistent and predictable and represents a huge opportunity for local contractors. It provides economic opportunity for contractors that they can sustain their operations and employees year after year. In some communities, it's been a challenge for our Housing Corporation to find contractors to do the repair work that we offer every year. Sometimes we put tenders out up to three times and not receive responses. New construction is really irregular and difficult for businesses and contractors to organize their businesses around. The repair and renovation is always there and is sustainable. Like I say, we're really putting a focus into apprenticeships to build up the capacity in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the Minister for the well thought out and answered question. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please advise this House if the department is looking at moving away from modular homes to a more community-based solution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The NWT Housing Corporation is always open to cost-effective solutions to provide needed housing within our communities. Should opportunities within the communities arise, then we're certainly open to exploring them. The community involvement is really important to the Housing Corporation and all contractors hired by the Housing Corporation are actually expected to maximize our northern and our local content whenever possible. The Housing Corporation also monitors the contractors to ensure that they meet all the agreed terms and conditions in the contract including their local and their northern context.

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

QUESTION 239-18(2):

ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION SITES ALONG
GREAT BEAR LAKE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned earlier, my address would be circulated around the contaminated sites along the shores of Bear Lake which I think raise a huge opportunity during these times of low economic employment in the smaller communities such as the neighbouring community to the sites in Deline. My question to the Minister is through federal funding access, through a Brazilian stimulus approach, is there ongoing negotiations for those sites along the shores of Bear Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Finance? Oh, sorry. Minister of Lands.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through devolution, through the contaminated sites, Canada kept the responsibility for the remuneration of a lot of the old contaminated sites along Great Bear Lake and I think there were about seven sites. There is a Waste Site Management Committee, inter-governmental committee that monitors the implementation of the waste sites charters. The government... Short answer is: the Government of Canada still has the responsibility for the remediation of those sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: Now that we've identified there's seven potential sites here, I don't know the scope of work or the budget involved and the remedial costs of these sites here. But would the Minister respond by giving us some information on whether these have potential federal funding approvals to clean up these sites?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure exactly what stage they're at. Through the committee that I had spoken of earlier, they do provide some advice and recommendation to Canada on their clean-up activities. What I can commit to the Member is that I will have some discussion with this particular committee and see where they are with their discussions with Canada and see if there's been any kind of a price tag attached to the potential clean-up of the sites around Great Bear Lake.

MR. MCNEELY: I thank the Minister for that positive reply which I'm sure the general public in Deline or the other opportunities that created with other communities will be happy to hear that. Knowing the flexibility of the territorial government's procurement process compared to the federal process, I ask the Minister if it's all possible or is there negotiations underway to solicit through a transfer agreement with the remedial funds going to this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what the process is right now. If Canada has committed any money to the clean-up of these sites, if there is opportunities for, say the regional government to enter into some type of an arrangement with for the remediation of these sites, I would suggest that they would have to speak to Canada directly and through this, the committee here, the regional government in the Sahtu are represented on this committee, so they would have a general idea of where these sites are at and many of these sites are very old. Again, I will do what I can from my end to see if there has been any money that has been earmarked for

remediation of these sites and I will share the information that I receive with Members across.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you to the Minister for the additional positive comments here. I look forward to receiving that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I'll take that as a comment from the Member. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake

QUESTION 240-18(2):
CLOSURE OF THE COURT LIBRARY

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke about the Department of Justice closing the law library and sources of public legal information in the Northwest Territories. I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice what kind of consultations were undertaken with the users of the library. Were lawyers, the Law Society, and legal advocates consulted in this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, at the time the budget was rolled, if I could put it that way, a letter was sent to the Law Society asking for their concerns or input. I can say that informally over the years I have consulted with my fellow practitioners and I took what they told me to Cabinet when we did discuss this very matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, the department indicates that it will be replacing the library with a new research centre. Can the Minister give us more detail about what this research centre is going to be all about? Are we talking about a few surplus computers in a dimly-lit room or is this something more substantial? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, the department is very focused on issues of access to justice and we're looking at the feasibility of establishing a resource centre in the courthouse which would allow counsel, legal counsel, and the general public to access electronic materials and a limited number of hard-copy books.

MR. TESTART: Those are scant details but I'll take the Minister for his word. Perhaps he can commit to giving a tour of this new research centre to MLAs. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister elaborate on what this interlibrary loan program will entail? Has the department spoken to a law library in Alberta? I'm somewhat troubled when I see the assistant deputy minister in the media saying, "a law library

somewhere in Alberta." Does the Minister know which law library that is?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I'm not certain which law library was spoken to or are they are planning to speak to. I know that there's two law schools in Alberta at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and the University of Calgary obviously in Calgary. I know little more than that. There will be communications with one or both of those libraries.

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

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, it would appear the Minister doesn't have a lot of these details readily available for Members of this House and for members of the public. I would strongly encourage that we resolve this with a real plan for what this research centre is going to look like and communicate this new resource to the public. In fact, when we're looking for efficiencies perhaps we could find them, but how much money is this going to save in the end, Mr. Speaker? It seems like there's still a lot of details, but how much money will closing the library save? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, we're anticipating this change will actually save a great deal of money. Last year, just to give the House some statistics, we spent \$467,000 to operate the library. There were only 984 visitors to the library, so that works out to about \$500 for each person, each visitor, to the library. Only 385 books were signed out, which would work out to about \$1200 for each book signed out. Additionally, our statistics indicate that most of the users of the current library are the legal profession and only about one per cent of the users are the general public, but I'm glad to see the Member opposite is concerned about the one per cent.

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

QUESTION 241-18(2):
ADHERENCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF
ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure I can top that one. I have questions for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As I said in my statement, Minister McLeod co-chaired the inaugural Federal-Provincial-Territorial Indigenous Forum in Ottawa; he was chair of its Aboriginal Affairs Working Group. Can the Minister give us a report on the substance and outcome of that meeting and what future actions are planned

towards compliance with the UN Declaration?
Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The June 10th meeting of Ministers and leaders in Ottawa marked the first under the new Federal-Provincial-Territorial Indigenous Forum aimed at improving outcomes for Indigenous people throughout Canada and to advance the vital work of reconciliation. This new forum replaces the former Aboriginal Affairs Working Group and includes the federal government now as a full partner in working with provincial and territorial governments and the national Indigenous organizations. This meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the scope of the new forum and to identify priorities, including the collaborative means for moving these priorities forward. Our discussions covered a number of important issues, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, youth engagement, and child and family services. These areas were discussed as priorities that the new forum can and should provide leadership on. Mr. Speaker, in addition, there was agreement to a number of areas for collaboration, including continuing to support the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; moving forward with efforts started within the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group to develop a socio-economic action plan for Indigenous women and girls; and sharing best practices that have led to measurable results. What is very clear from the discussions is that Ministers and leaders are committed to working in partnership to address the issues that are important to Indigenous peoples in Canada.

MR. O'REILLY: It's great to get the report in the House on the meeting that the Premier attended last week. Earlier today, though, I pointed out this Article 19 in the declaration and it reads as follows: "Consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them." That single article creates immense new responsibilities. I'd like to ask the Premier how GNWT intends to comply with Article 19 of the declaration.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Canada has stated that it will engage with Indigenous groups on how to implement the principles of the declaration and that this work will include the provinces and territories. It is expected that the Government of the Northwest Territories and Canada, along with other jurisdictions, will engage in a clearer understanding

of the meaning and implications of Canada's recent full endorsement of United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and this will require further dollars as it stands now. However, Canada appears to be saying that they fully endorse the UN Declaration, but applied in Canada our constitutional framework already allows for the implementation of the principle of free, prior and informed consent. Unlike the previous government they have left unstated that this also means that our constitutional framework does not guarantee a veto. Consequently, much more work will be required with the federal government so that we understand fully the legal background that they use for making their statements at the United Nations.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the Premier, but my question was really not so much how we're going to work with the federal and provincial governments but what are we going to do as a government. I'll just give one example here. Can the Premier tell this House how GNWT will obtain free, prior, and informed consent from indigenous governments in developing and implementing new resource management legislation?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As I said, the Government of Canada's recent adoption of the United Nations declaration in accordance with Canada's laws and Constitution is a very encouraging and tangible demonstration of the federal government's renewed commitment to Canada's Aboriginal people. The Government of the Northwest Territories will continue to work with the federal government and Aboriginal governments to further the promotion and protection of Aboriginal and treaty rights. The successful conclusion of modern treaties and self-government agreements can be seen as the ultimate expression of free, prior, and informed consent among partners.

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

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the Premier's response on how we're going to work together with the federal and provincial governments, but he still hasn't answered my question about what this government is going to do to help implement this declaration. We're one of the first sub-national governments that actually endorsed this back in 2008, so what is our government going to do to help implement this legislation, and can he commit to report back to the House, and this side of the House, how we intend to do that?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We are a part of Canada. We have endorsed the United Nations declaration. The Government of Canada has stated that they will approve it without qualifications and we will work with them to make sure that we are all

dovetailed together in fulfilling the commitments made under the United Nations declaration.

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

QUESTION 242-18(2):
DEVELOPMENT OF AN OIL AND GAS
STRATEGY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my statement today, I have some questions for the Minister of ITI. In 2013 the government released the Economic Opportunity Strategy. It recommended the development of an oil and gas strategy. That was three years ago. Where are we with this? When can we expect this strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Much work has been done on the oil and gas strategy in the latter stage of the 17th Legislative Assembly, including the release of the public engagement report "Pathways to Petroleum Development." The strategy was recently identified as a mandate priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly. The resource sector is the single-largest contributor to the Northwest Territories' economy. Our territory has world-class oil and natural gas reserves and has had an active petroleum industry for a century. The draft strategy is being reviewed and edited by a Government of Northwest Territories interdepartmental working group. Following this, the draft strategy will be released for input from Aboriginal governments, regulators, industry, and online for public comment. Changes will be made based on comments received to finalize the strategy which is planned to be publicly released in 2017.

MR. SIMPSON: 2017, we're still a year away. A lot of analysts believe oil is rebounding at a much quicker rate than expected. I know some good policy people with a lot of experience in Hay River who might be able to help the department get this done a little bit quicker. Earlier I also mentioned some of the challenges we're facing attracting investment. What does the Minister see as our biggest challenge and what's the department doing about it?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: In my opinion the lack of infrastructure is the biggest constraint on attracting investment in the Northwest Territories as well as the low commodity prices and the very high cost of operating in the Northwest Territories. Construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway would reduce exploration and developments costs along the corridor by as much as 40 per cent. The 2015 Review Report of the Canada Transportation Act

estimated a leverage factor of 80 for the Mackenzie Valley Highway, which means that for every \$1 of federal and Northwest Territories' investment in the Mackenzie Valley Highway the economic benefits related to increased resource development will be \$80. Transportation and infrastructure is not only needed for equipment, people, supplies, food and energy but also for data to facilitate communication research. The Mackenzie Valley fibre optic line is also being constructed up to Inuvik and will enable expansion of the Inuvik satellite station facility as well as provide high-speed Internet and telecommunication services to the Beaufort Delta. We have opportunity to responsibly develop, produce and export our petroleum resources to global markets to create high-paying jobs, lucrative contracts for our businesses and tax and royalty revenues for the Northwest Territories, Aboriginal, and federal governments. I too am encouraged by the fact that the price of oil is increasing.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you for that answer. I also understand that the regulations pursuant to the Oil and Gas Operations Act and the Petroleum Resources Act are being reviewed. How is this process being undertaken? Who is being consulted in this?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We cannot deny that we sit in the down cycle of the commodity markets right now. This is something we have seen before. Commodity markets rise, they fall, they recover. It's a natural flow of the markets. As we sit in this downturn, our government is hard at work ensuring our jurisdiction will be ready to capitalize on the next peak in commodities. ITI has started work reviewing the Oil and Gas Operations Act and the Petroleum Resources Act, regulations pursuant to those acts, and associated policies. Policy intent discussion papers are being developed which will introduce potential changes. These papers will be shared with Aboriginal governments, regulators, industry and the public to provide an opportunity for input on the potential changes the Government of the Northwest Territories is considering, as well as petroleum-related policy issues that stakeholders and Aboriginal governments might wish to raise. Legislative and regulatory drafting will be done by the Department of Justice and follow the legislative and gazetting process.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We discussed infrastructure, regulation. Research is another big component of this. We need the research so we know the areas to focus on and help industry out. Is the government doing anything on the research front? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, research is a key component of a strong future for any resource economy. ITI's new NWT geological survey division helps to fill this need and provides publicly available geoscience information that is used to stimulate mineral and petroleum exploration and investment, understand environmental change, assess mineral and petroleum resource potential, and assist in infrastructure projects and use decisions. Current projects focus on topics such as diamond exploration in the Slave Geological Province, mineral potential of the Mackenzie Mountains, permafrost melting and associated landscape and water quality change. They also administer the Mining Incentive Program. The NWT geological survey division also recently participated in unconventional petroleum resource assessment for the Canol and Bluefish Shale Oil Play and the Liard Sedimentary Basin. In the Canol/Bluefish Shell Play they identified the potential of 200 billion barrels of oil, and in the Liard Sedimentary Basin 137 trillion cubic feet of which 44 trillion would be in the Northwest Territories. These are both world-class oil and gas plays. These assessments are preliminary but indicate significant petroleum potential in both locations.

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

QUESTION 243-18(2):
DEMPSTER HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I travelled back home this past week and drove back home, I couldn't help but notice, you know, the amount of dust on our Dempster Highway. Mr. Speaker, usually about this time the department starts preparing to put down calcium on the roads and you know have dust control, Mr. Speaker. Many times it gets very dangerous on the highway especially when you're passing tractor trailers or equipment like this. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to ask the Minister of Transportation, when will the crews start putting calcium down on the Dempster Highway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALL SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is well aware, I guess this time of year is our routine maintenance and the crews are getting out there and doing all the routine stuff that's done in the springtime from culvert thawing to, you know, straightening the signs and other stuff. I suspect that the department will be doing the application of calcium in the short order that is coming up here. You know road safety is the number one importance to us, so I can double check on that and get back to the Member exactly when it will be. Just putting that out. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, you know talking to a number of equipment operators, you know, especially when they first starting putting this application down, you know, when the calcium is laid down it's always best to grade the road at the same time that way it soaks right into the road 'because if you just lay it over the top, you know once we get a large amount of rain it usually runs off. Will the Minister ensure that when the crews do work on the highway that that is practiced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALL SCHUMANN: I'll have to check with the department if that's exactly how we apply this and grade the roads at the same time, but if that is the case we will ensure that's how it's done.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, you know the department is doing a great job. I see a lot of resurfacing on the Dempster Highway over the last couple of weeks here. You know, I'd just like to ask the Minister, will the Minister ensure that the calcium is laid down by the end of session here?

HON. WALL SCHUMANN: I'm not sure if I could commit to have that done by end of session. I'll have to check with the department and see when we will be applying that.

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

QUESTION 244-18(2):
INFORMATION ON FORT SIMPSON FERRY SERVICE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of follow-up questions for the Minister of Transportation regarding the ferry services. Mr. Speaker, the Minister made a commitment in this House to provide me of the cost analysis of what the two extra hours of ferry operations would be. Unfortunately, I did not ask for a date for getting that information. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister commit to having this information to provide to me by the end of June 24th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot commit to having it to the Member by June 24th, but I will commit to the Member to have it to him by end of session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. Can I get a clarification if it's session, because we can go on for a while, or at the end of this sitting? Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: By the end of this session, June 29th.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for the commitment. I am assuming we're talking about the sitting at the end of this June. I think that's what I heard. Mr. Speaker, the Minister made a commitment to provide me the information about the cost for operating the ferries in the Northwest Territories; however, again I asked for the return date. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister commit to having this information to provide to me by the end of this sitting?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, we will commit to having that to the Member by June 29th. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess at the end of sitting, so we can confirm is the 29th, and you're going to get it to me by that date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, I will get it to the Member by June 29th, end of business day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 245-18(2):
PUBLIC REPORTING ON SOLE-SOURCE
CONTRACTING

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance. I believe public confidence in oversight of the sole source contracts might be improved if reports for the last two fiscal years, that's 2014-15 and 2015-16, were produced and posted to the website. Could the Minister make a commitment to produce these reports as soon as possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is we produce those every year and I will make a commitment to the Member that we will share those. Thank you.

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Finance Minister for that answer. I would just like to understand how and when this information will be shared. Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. These are normally produced at the end of each fiscal year and I believe these reports are also

tabled. I will confirm that and share that information with the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As I pointed out in my statement, with the increased purchasing amounts, these contracts may be of more interest to larger non-resident suppliers. I'm wondering what kind of change there'll be in this to the BIP application to the sole-source so that we know that sole-source contracts go to northern suppliers. Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. You know, there will be more interest in a lot of these procurement processes because the amounts are available, but again it was encouragement we got from the business community. BIP would still apply to these, and I can assure the Member and all Members that we take all steps necessary to ensure that our northern-based businesses have a fair opportunity and a good opportunity to secure these contracts.

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

QUESTION 246-18(2):
CONTRACT MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN
YELLOWKNIFE

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today we haven't had the pleasure of hearing from the Minister of Health and Social Services, so I have a couple of questions for him. I understand that from previous discussions we've had here in the House that there's a couple of midwifery consultants that have been hired to do some work to help design the territorial system. Can the Minister tell us when the contracts for those two individuals finish? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We tried to the last fiscal year to hire some positions and we weren't able to get anybody until February 2015 is actually when I believe we were able to get those individuals into that position. I'll have to confirm. I don't believe they're term positions, but I will confirm whether or not they are term, and if they are term what is the end date. I do believe they're indeterminate at this point, but I will confirm. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I'll be interested in getting the information from the Minister. If those positions are indeterminate, is there a way to roll those positions

over into becoming full-time positions and supporting midwifery services in Yellowknife?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, anything's possible, but we can't really do anything until we actually have the program designed which is what we've hired these individuals to do. Given that they have the appropriate background, it may be appropriate to do so, but it would also depend on whether or not the incumbents were interested in doing that. There's a lot of ifs here, Mr. Speaker, but we're open to creativity.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 6-18(2):
COST OF VISUAL IDENTITY PROGRAM

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have questions on the costs of the Visual Identity Program. My questions are to the Minister of the Executive regarding the creation of a new government of the NWT Visual Identity Program.

What factors prompted the decision for and timing of the creation of a new visual identity?

How much was spent developing a new Visual Identity Program including contract costs of public and internal consultation and for preparation, selection of, and approval of design alternatives?

How much was spent on the development of visual identity standard guides and design elements and the dissemination of guidelines and design components?

How much was spent replacing pre-existing materials bearing superseded visual identity elements? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 70-18(2):
ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR NWT
COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS 2014-2015
ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 71-18(2):
2015 ANNUAL REPORT – OFFICE OF THE FIRE
MARSHALL

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Accountability Framework for NWT Community Governments 2014-2015 Annual Report" and the "2015 Annual Report of the Fire Marshall." Thank you, Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 72-18(2):
CORRESPONDENCE FROM YELLOWKNIFE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – REQUEST TO
REDUCE CORPORATE TAX RATES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following document "request to reduce corporate tax rates – correspondence from the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce."

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 20-18(2):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO
JUNE 23, 2016

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, June the 20th, 2016, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable for Great Slave that notwithstanding Rule 4 when this House adjourns on June 17, 2016, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, June 23, 2016. Further, that at any time prior to June 23, 2016, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motions. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Members for Yellowknife Centre.

Motions

MOTION 20-18(2):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO
JUNE 23, 2016,
CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Great Slave, that notwithstanding Rule 4 when this House adjourns on June 17, 2016, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, June 23, 2016.

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to June 23, 2016, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried. Masi.

---Carried

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 Member for Hay River North in the Chair. Sorry, by the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 18-18(2), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House. Mahsi.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 50-18(2), Main Estimates, 2016-2017, and committee would like to consider the NWT

Housing Corporation, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We'll begin consideration after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Minister, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce her witnesses to the committee.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right is Jeff Anderson. He is the president and the CEO of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. On my left is Jim Martin. He is the vice president of finance and infrastructure services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Yesterday we left off on pages 367 and 368. That is the detail associated with finance and infrastructure services. I will let committee find their place. If there are any comments or questions, just raise your hand. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would like the Minister to provide an explanation of how the transitional supportive housing is going to be distributed to support both male and female clients? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The semi-independent housing program will be distributed by... We put out a letter of interest, and then we will be seeing which shelters come forward. We have talked with the Salvation Army and the Yellowknife Women's Society and the YWCA. The Salvation Army, the Yellowknife Women's Society have come forward and have expressed an interest. The YWCA, we are still working with to see if we can support them as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. According to a meeting I had at the end of last week with the Salvation Army, they have no interest in this project. I am wondering how the needs of male clients are going to be served. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is not our understanding. We have had several meetings with the Salvation Army, and they have talked about using either the main floor of the normal Salvation Army building or the bottom floor of the Bailey House. We will double check to make sure that they haven't changed their mind. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the event that the Salvation Army is not prepared to serve men, how will they be part of this program? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If the Salvation Army does not commit to working with us, then we will try to find another entity to provide those services. If we can't find anyone, then I am sorry, we will have to bring it forward and look at alternatives. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. How will this fund be divided among the service providers? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have the finances for 30 renovations. We will be meeting... All of the interested parties who submit their names forward will be pulled together into a group. We will be negotiating with those groups. We do, however, recognize that there is a greater population of men within the communities who are homeless. We would be advocating strongly within the group to provide support to that. I will let any interested parties that come forward... It would be their decision on how that is divided. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: No more questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Are there any further comments or questions on this section? Mr. Nadli.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my questions are in regards to, of course, the Homeless Assistance Fund. Just trying to get the numbers down in terms of the circumstance of homeless people in small and rural communities. I understand that the department has undertaken a pilot study initiative to try to advance the idea to see if the effort can be maybe scoped out and tested on the ground, so to speak, at the community level. Could the Minister provide perhaps an update or overview in terms of the intention of that pilot case project? Mahsi.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was a bit confused in all honesty because the Member asked for the information on the Homeless Assistance Fund, but the Homeless Assistance Fund is actually one-time funding that people can access for up to \$3,000. I am thinking that the question should have been the Northern Pathways to Housing, which is about putting in homeless shelters. If that is the case, then we have the three communities that we are putting the homeless shelters into and that is Simpson, Aklavik, and Behchoko. Then we have \$70,000 in operational funding that we are giving to those communities. That is our capacity at this time. Then in future years we will be looking at expanding those programs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Minister for reply. If indeed these are pilot cases in those three communities, is there perhaps a process in terms of undertaking those initiatives? That is a great step in terms of addressing the homelessness issues in small communities. Just in terms of process, as I understand it, a pilot case is undertaken at the community level, it is monitored, and perhaps some flexibility in terms of how a program initiative of that nature could work if implemented. At some point, there is an evaluation in terms of trying to reflect upon maybe the successes of the program experience and perhaps learn from it and maybe apply it at a later stage. Is that the case? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The process to fund the communities was actually put out a couple of years ago. We submitted out to all the communities. Actually, at that time we had funding to look at four. Only three communities came forward at that time. We worked with the three communities to set them up. They are just getting structured in now because it takes some time within government. When we look at expanding that, then we would be again submitting a request to all communities that don't have that in and asking them to come forward and see if they would be interested. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, maybe I could ask the question the other way. These two communities that are undertaking as pilot project cases, could the Minister define what pilot project are in terms of delivering these homeless initiatives at the community level. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The term pilot... There was funding for the four and three came forward. It is just about building capacity. We really want to make sure that the communities that take on these projects have the skills and abilities and the capacity to provide them and to do them to sustain the program. We want to make sure that we provide the proper support before we go forward and to expand that to make sure that they succeed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Nadli? Nothing further from Mr. Nadli. Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is to the homelessness initiative. Is it a formula headquarters funding arrangement where the five districts are divided up to this particular pot of money? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. I will remind all Members and guests in the gallery to turn their cell phones on silent and turn all audio devices to off. Minister.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again I am a bit confused with the question. If it is the homelessness initiative, that is the housing assistance funding. That is the \$3,000 application base. If we are talking about the Small Community Homelessness Fund, that is also application based. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: If we use, in the working exercise here, the Sahtu as a model, so your application, based on what is submitted, so that particular region could hand in ten applications and get approved? Is that the way I interpret it there, Mr. Chair?

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. If a community does submit ten applications, each application would be considered within the community. We are talking about the small-community homeless fund. I want to make sure I am talking about the right program. Within the community of Yellowknife, or the southern communities, the maximum fund for that is \$10,000. Within the northern communities, the maximum is \$15,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was referring to the Small Community Homelessness Fund. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was the one I assumed and so made the statement that, yes, every application can be considered and north is \$15,000, southern communities are \$10,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Nothing further, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to the Northern Pathways to Housing, there is enough money in there to do four projects, but three projects were approved. I notice that the same budget appears in last year's revised mains and mains and also in this year's mains. I am wondering if the money lapsed last year. Did we do three last year and doing three more this year? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, it was just three in total. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That would be three from 2015-16 or is it three for 2016-17? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have had the money in place for over a year, but it has taken us time to actually work with the communities to get them to finish up. In fact, one of the communities just came in the other day to finish the process even though they expressed interest over a year ago. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you. My original question was: did the money from 2015-16, some of it or most of it, lapse?

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is correct.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Last question. That means there is enough money there for one more community to come forward to access their portion of the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The request was sent out a couple of years ago, so when we only got the three, we stopped at that. We made a commitment that we would make sure that three communities were successful before we went any further with any more funding on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Beaulieu is waving me off. Do we have any further comments or questions? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Just a couple of clarifications with Northern Pathways to Housing. Is it \$280,000 at \$70,000 per project, or is it three divided by the \$280,000? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. It is \$70,000 a year for operating and maintenance. That will be continued. Then we have budgeted \$400,000 per unit to be able to provide the units in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Minister. That is good to hear. I am just confused with the math though. It is \$280,000. Why wouldn't we budget \$210,000? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually, it was noted that there was the \$70,000 left in from the operating and maintenance from the last tender. I will pass it over to my deputy minister if you would like to expand on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we've been working for quite a while with the communities to try to get this program up and running to deal with homelessness in our rural and remote communities. Our initial approach to it was to try and renovate a single house that we had in inventory in our communities. The cost of that was over and above the ability at that time we had to fund it, so what we've done with the new federal money, we've put these little four-plexes in place. We have designed a four-plex concept, pretty small, 320 square feet to address this population or try to address it. We think three is the right number to move forward at this time to see if we can get the proper supports in place, and that's with the community groups, but also they're partnering with the community services agencies as well to provide some of the clinical supports. If this model is successful, it's something that we'll look forward to expanding on in the future, but for now, we want to stay with the three and see how it works out. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Anderson. I'm not arguing about, or I totally understand the concept. I'm just trying to understand. The budget is \$280,000, and you have three... It's \$70,000. You have three projects. It's \$210,000, so there's a savings of \$70,000, unless that... Is that \$70,000 for over expenditures, or over cost runs for these communities so you make sure you don't fall or they don't, I guess, stop the success of the program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Ms. Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I didn't catch that. Yes, correct. We haven't

finished the project yet, so we want to actually leave the money where it is because sometimes projects do come in over expenditure. If the projects come in under costing, all of the savings will be re-profiled to stay within the homelessness initiatives that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chair

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer, well thought out. I have to congratulate the department on doing that in thinking, being proactive instead of, have to do supps afterwards. I like the idea where you're going with the money. My last or my next question is, this seems to be one of the favourite topics, is where is RCMP housing in the scope of things? Is it in this area here or the maintenance and operation stuff or is it somewhere else? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll let the deputy minister answer that question.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the RCMP project is one of the projects that will be identified in our revised capital estimates, because this year is the construction phase of that project, and also acquiring land in some of the other regional centers, so it won't show up on the operating side until next year once we've got revenue flowing on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank Mr. Anderson for his answer. Just to clarify, so for next year, is this the area it's going to be in or is there going to be another section in your guys' business plan? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll let Jeff Anderson answer that again. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will show up in this area for sure under our non-residential building operations. Those are all of the projects and buildings that we lease out on to other

agencies of government, and so we would include it in that line object as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: No, I'm good. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I know that we've started to talk a little bit about RCMP housing. I wanted to ask, so somewhere in the budget for this year, though, there must be some resources devoted to actually building or managing the construction of RCMP housing in 2016-17. Would that be right? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually, on page 356, you'll see the capital amount of \$3.4 million, and that is to purchase land, and it's also for one six-unit in Fort Smith, \$37.5 million on page 356. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. We don't actually have any O and M resources devoted to the construction or management of that work? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll let Mr. Anderson answer that.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the corporation has project officers in our regional centers. They manage the inspection services on all of our capital projects in all of the communities. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. These project officers, they would be the ones that would be overseeing this work, so we would be expending part of our O and M resources to manage this RCMP housing construction and so on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Anderson will take that, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a program that we're putting out about just on the capital side of about \$37 million, so our project officers are in the communities already doing projects on the social housing side, so this would be one extra project that they would be providing that support to as well. I guess the other point I would make is that our project officers are primarily in the regional centers, and so they're in the community too to support that process. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. These project officers are managing all of this work. I'm just trying to get a sense of what portion of that work would be this RCMP work, and I'm not asking for an exact figure. Is it one per cent? Five per cent? Fifty per cent? Just trying to get an understanding of what level of work is involved for those folks in managing this particular project. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're projecting that the scope of work for the project managers will be very small. It would just be during the construction phase. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Why I'm asking this reason or these questions is I'm concerned that, look, I think we all want to keep RCMP in the communities and we want to look after them and treat them well and so on, but we're devoting our scarce O and M funds, maybe even some capital funds, to building housing that perhaps the RCMP should be managing and doing themselves. Is this taking away from our ability to provide housing for our own people in our own communities? That's the question I guess I have for the Minister. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to just explain to the Members that the NWT Housing Corporation has been in market housing for quite a number of time. We've been providing market housing to the smaller

communities because they don't have the market community in their communities. We've been providing housing for professionals such as social workers, nurses, etcetera, teachers, for decades. It's not like we're starting something new. This is something that we've done for a long time and we continue to do. In fact, we have 400 units within the NWT that we provide that service for currently, and again, the revenue that we make from these units will help us to address the declining CMHC funding that we know will be coming within the next 20 years... 28? 38? 38. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. It's helpful, but the fact is that we've got a limited pool of money to work with for housing for our own people. Now that has to be spread a little bit thinner because we're going to be putting in housing and managing that for the RCMP. I don't know why we're all of a sudden now providing housing for the RCMP, but I guess that was a decision from another Minister, but we've got a limited pool of money to work with. Is this taking away from our capacity to provide housing for our own residents? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, this will not take away our ability to provide housing for our residents. We've been doing market housing for about 15 years. We have a huge success rate within the communities. The community has asked us to keep it. Not only do they appreciate it, they require it in order to maintain services such as teachers, social workers, nurses, and now RCMP within our communities, they rely on the NWT Housing Corporation to provide those units. The cost of the RCMP housing actually will be the operating and maintenance will be charged back to them and they will be paying market rent, so it is a revenue-based program that we're looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Would the Minister then commit to providing information to the House about how much we're spending to build these homes, operate them, and what sort of revenues we're getting back? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have done that to the committee. If the

committee would like another briefing on that, we are willing to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's not what I asked. I asked if the information could be provided to the House. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, if the Members would like us to provide it in the House, then we can do that, although I would like to say that I was hoping that the committee was a way of disseminating information to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the commitment from the Minister to publically table that information in the future. I had one other question I'd like to ask about the co-op two-per-cent write down. I see that there's declining contributions there. From \$195,000 last year to \$155,000 this year, can the Minister or her staff explain what's going on there? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll let Mr. Anderson answer that one.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the two co-ops that we support under this program have recently refinanced their mortgages to a rate that's below the two per cent, so the subsidy is not required at this time. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, appreciate that, and I'm glad that we continue to support co-ops. Just one line down, there's the same thing for non-profit, two per cent write down. There's a decline in funding there as well. Can the Minister and/or her staff explain that as well? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll let Mr. Anderson answer that.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the same situation applies there. We've been getting favourable rates through the refinancing of these operations, so it applies across the board for those types of programs where there's an interest rate subsidy. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. O'Reilly, ten seconds.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I love being given deadlines, so my last question is the reduction of funding under other unilateral contributions, if I could get an explanation? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll let Mr. Anderson answer that one.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, under that program, we provide support, rent-gated income support on the Avens Ridge which is part of the facility in town here, and with their collection rate, the subsidy has been reduced. They've been doing a good job running their operation, so we've been able to reduce their contribution by \$25,000. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Next, I have Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if since we're on the finance component of Housing Corporation, if the Housing Corporation could let us know what the current balance of total arrears are for the Housing Corporation. I would think that that would be the 2015-16 year, probably. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Anderson will answer that question.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. As an organization, we've been putting in a lot of energy and effort into improving collection rates that we expect to be over, actually over 100 per cent of assessments for fiscal year 2015-16. We're still in the process of finalizing all the audits for this last fiscal year to get the final numbers, and that we're

ready for the fall as part of our annual report. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to hear from the department that they're starting to improve their collection rates. I would make the assumption then that the arrears balance is improving. Without giving numbers then specifically because you can't, can the department comment as it relates to the balance going improving, or is it increasing? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The department has made a really conscious effort into the collection of arrears, so at this point, it is improving. However, as Mr. Anderson has pointed out, we're kind of at the process of getting the new CRA assessments, so we're not too sure what we'll be faced coming forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to that information. Mr. Chair, I want to go back just for a moment to vacant units. We're still... The infrastructure component here, the budget. I know that the Minister committed to providing a list to committee. However, I would think that here and now, the Housing Corporation would be able to tell us a few things. One is how many vacant units do we actually have currently of all of our assets? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, we have 2,420 public housing units. Fifty of those units are vacant and ready for occupancy, which is a two per cent vacancy rate. One hundred and thirty five units are under repair. I do want to say that people assume that all vacant units in the communities are public housing, but many of them are privately owned. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the reply. Of the assets that we have under homeownership, how many of those are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, there's 43, but they're just coming on stream, so that is why we have so many, and it's 13 per cent vacancy rate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. How many units do we have of our assets that are, I'll call it boarded up, that are scheduled for demolition? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point, we have 106 units that are boarded up, ready for demolition throughout the communities. However, when I say demolition, we do try to provide them to community groups, people within the programs, to see if we can help them purchase them. The demolition is actually a last resort. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly on vacant units, of the 400 market housing units that we own in the communities, how many of those are currently unoccupied? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The marketing housing, the ones that we own, we have 43 vacant. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Follow-up, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Yes, and just to close it, it would be appreciated if the department could still follow-up with the list on breaking that out for us community by community, it would be greatly appreciated. That's all the questions that I have for this page right now, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Would the Minister like to respond?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we will provide that to the Members.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson, another go on this page?

MR. THOMPSON: One more, just a follow-up question I hope, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Go ahead, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You talked about getting it to us. When can we expect to get this information? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Within a month the Members will have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for that. That would have been I guess some encouragement for next time, maybe have the information available when we're doing the business plans for next year, if that could be possible? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we commit to that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Nothing further from Mr. Thompson. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I apologize; I neglected to ask the Minister and her staff, there was a reduction of \$115,000 for pre-1986 private non-profit housing under the contribution section. Can someone explain that to me, please? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was actually federal money that was one-time funded. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: No more questions, sorry.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Shall we move on to page 366, operations expenditure summary? Do you have comments or questions on page 366? I see no comments or questions. I will call this page NWT Housing Corporation, finance and infrastructure services, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$21,532,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We will move on to programs and district operations on page 370. We will defer the total activity until we complete the discussion or the detail. On page 371, any comments or questions on 371? I'll give committee a moment. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, clearly we can see here under the line item of home ownership programs the PATH program, which is Providing Assistance for Territorial Homeownership, that there is a considerable reduction from last year to this year. I wonder if the Minister can please provide explanation to the House in regard to that reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Housing Corporation has changed its strategy, and so within the market communities we still offer subsidies for market housing. Within the smaller communities where there aren't the market housing we are now providing the public housing for those needs. Our costs have actually decreased within that strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments, however this is a very significant reduction. I think that there has been clearly some concerns amongst Members as it relates to this reduction. Is this the amount that the department is committing to? I wonder if we can get clarification. I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Anderson will expand on my statement earlier.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just to add a bit more detail to this account. What we've done is in our rural remote communities we've changed our strategy a little bit where when somebody wants to buy a house we have incentives in place for them to buy a house that they're renting from us, for example, through our HELP program. You can also purchase a unit from us through the Public Housing program as well. When a client wants to purchase those units or those homes, they actually get a subsidy under the PATH program of up to 55 per cent in the North and 44 per cent, I believe, in the southern part of

the territory. They're going to the bank to get the remaining balance. In these cases, the corporation is getting money back, so this expense is like depreciation. It's a non-cash expenditure. We can still meet the same demand that we have now without that... Because it's, if I can explain it well enough, it's essentially like depreciation where you have an expense on your books for the subsidy, but it's a non-cash item, so we can continue to provide the same level of service under this program as we provide now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the department is finding ways to better improve programming, that's important. We want to make sure that we are providing the best possible program service we can. I just wonder though, however, this is a significant reduction, can the department maybe speak a little bit more to, you know, where that actual funding has then gone? Is there some form of reinstatement? You know, I appreciate that improving the program so that we can get better uptake. I'm trying to get a little bit of a handle on where the actual reduced amount has gone to and where is it going to be. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Anderson would like to address that.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. As I said, what will happen in this account, if we sell several of our housing units, for example, there'll still be an expense under this. It'll be higher than the budget. As I indicated, it's a non-cash expenditure. What happens is we take the proceeds that we get from the financing, wherever the client finances their share of the acquisition price of the house, and that money gets rolled back into our revenues for reinvestment in our programs. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Okay, I appreciate that, that's a better understanding. That's the questions that I have right now on this page. I'll let others ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I just have a question on the Beaufort Delta district, the actuals for 2014-15 were \$879,300, and for 2016-17 they're \$838,100. I just want to see where the reductions are on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. What page are you referring to?

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Sorry, we're on 370, right?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We're on page 371. Do I have further comments or questions on page 370? One moment. First, Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Page 371, I notice there CMHC repair programs in the previous other year, 2014-15, there was \$492 in that budget for CMHC repairs. Can the Minister explain if we're going to see any money or is there monies being applied for to extend CMHC repairs to this budget? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$492,000 is actually an old CMHC funding, and so it's discontinued, so now being covered under homeownership programs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Mr. McNeely. There's no further questions from Mr. McNeely. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm looking at the line, minor repairs, under rental housing programs. The figures here jump around quite a bit: 2014-15 it was over \$7.4 million, next year is \$1.7million in 2015-16, and then in 2016-17 is \$2.2 million. Why are these figures jumping all over the place? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Jim Martin will address that answer.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the difference here from 2014-15 actuals to the current mains is primarily explained by a required accounting adjustment at the end of the year. All the same capital projects that we started out with for the year were delivered. However, at the end of the year, we go through an accounting process to ensure that we have them properly classified between major capital and minor capital. Minor capital is considered O and M, and that's why we have a higher number in this case for 2014-15,

again, just simply those are the year-end accounting adjustments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks for the explanation. Not that I don't want to spend money on minor repair, but why is it the difference between last year, in 2015-16, and 2016-17? We just haven't accrued the year end stuff through the accounting or what's happening there? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. We'll send it back to Mr. Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank, Mr. Chairman. The difference between the 2015-16 budget is explained primarily by the new federal funding, so that's been added in, which is essentially the minor, O and M, related items such as fuel tanks and demolition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the explanation. How much of that \$2.2 million is actual federal funding? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is \$1.5 million of new federal funding that's been added into the 2016 main estimates figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was afraid I was going to hear this, we're all aware that the federal government's finally getting back into affordable housing, and that's a good thing and we want them there, but I don't want that to be used as an excuse for us not to spend money on housing. Is this going to be a continuing trend where if we acquire more federal dollars we're going to start spending less ourselves on housing? Is that where we're going? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually, no, we are still committed to supporting housing within the NWT. This year we have \$84 million committed from the Northwest Territories Government and last year it was actually around the same. Even with the \$35 million that we received from the federal government, the Government of the Northwest Territories has still

put in the same financial figure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that commitment from the Minister, and it's something that I'll certainly be watching very carefully because I'm sure we all want to work towards improving our housing and getting it out of core need. As new federal dollars come in, we shouldn't be withdrawing our funding as well or during that period as well. Thanks, Mr. Chair. It's more of a comment.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Would the Minister like to respond?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do appreciate the Member's comments. I think that the whole of the GNWT is committed, like I say, to housing and recognize the need, and is committed to trying to address the needs of the residents of the NWT as best as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Nothing further, Mr. O'Reilly? Mr. O'Reilly has waived me off. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a follow-up question to my PATH questioning earlier. Just quickly from the department, what will be the reporting means within this document in future Main Estimates for PATH?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would anticipate it would stay at that same level, so we're going to continue to have money set aside for the contributions that we provide in Yellowknife, Hay River, and Inuvik that identifies the actual cash outlay when you buy off the market. But in the other communities across the Northwest Territories where we provide the high subsidy, as I said earlier, we'll be asking folks if they want to purchase a unit from the corporation. Then that would apply in the scenario that I mentioned to you before. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. It seems like then we are going to have kind of two line mechanism for reporting path next year. Is that correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you. You will be able to see on our actuals, the expenditure amounts will be consistent probably with previous years. In terms of the budget numbers, it will be at the \$75,000 level thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: That is it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Do we have further comments or questions on page 371? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am really tired. I am still trying to understand this PATH stuff. I appreciate the attempts by our Minister and staff to try to explain this. Will the money that is used, will it show up in the public accounts? Is that the place where this is going to show up, this sort of money, in and out again? Or how is that actually going to be reflected? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, it will show up in the financial reports. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Is that the public accounts then? Thanks Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. I think, again, the concern is that we have new federal dollars starting to finally come in. That should not be a reason or pardon me, an excuse for us to withdraw money out of housing. I will be watching the public accounts to see if that is indeed the case. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Anything further, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: No. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Comments or questions on 371. Seeing none, we can move to 370. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My apologies for the mix-up earlier. Just getting back to the Beaufort Delta district, my question to the Minister and her staff is 2014-15 actuals were \$8,793, and 2016-17 main estimates are \$8,381. I just want to know if the Minister can elaborate on the cuts on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Minister Cochrane.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will let Mr. Martin speak to that one.

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

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The reason why, again as mentioned previously regarding the year-end accounting adjustments between major capital and minor... There was additional projects at the end of the year that were deemed to be minor capital in nature, therefore O and M, and were reclassified. That explains why the 2014-15 actuals were higher than what you are seeing in the main estimates figure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Martin. Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: That is good. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Nothing further. I have Mr. Thompson on my list. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Regarding the Nahendeh district, I see an increase of \$228,000. Could you explain what the increase is on that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was tempted to ask the Member if he would like us to remove it. Instead of giving you that answer, I will ask Mr. Martin to speak to it.

---Laughter

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

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase is explained, again, by the new federal funding that has come in. That is the Nahendeh's share of that new federal funding. That was for, again as mentioned, demolition, fuel, and hot water

tank replacements and minor MNR work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Martin. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you and I thank you for that answer. However, I notice that you talked about yet a new LHO coming into Fort Liard with three positions, new office space. Where is that money in this budget? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is actually covered within the community housing services which is on page 361.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I am just a little bit confused because it talks about district operations. Maybe I can get a clarification what district operations means then if it doesn't mean the O and M and staffing of their district office as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The district office that we have in our regional centres, that supports the delivery of our home ownership programs and our capital works that we do. The offices that we have at the community level are under the community housing services activity as well as the resources in administration and maintenance that you see there would be where the dollars are to support the positions, the 128 positions, we have at the community level. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Thompson, do you have further questions that pertain to page 370, as we have already agreed upon 361?

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just trying to clarify because I guess it is just a little confusing for myself with this process. I apologize. I see that money is there, so we are all good. Thank you.

---Laughter

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Nothing further, Mr. Thompson? Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Beaulieu is next on my list. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, similar questions on the reductions. My interest of course in the North Slave district and South Slave district. Just wondering if they could

explain the reductions compared to the actuals in 2014-15.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is the same issue, but I will let Mr. Martin expand on that.

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

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as mentioned previously, the decrease from 2014-15 actuals to the 2015-16 current main budgets is again explained by the year-end accounting adjustments, reclassifying project expenditures at the end of the year based on scope reviews from major capital to minor capital for proper accounting purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Martin. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, sorry, it caught me a little off-guard. I thought that this was for the district operations, and in that I mean the operations of the district staff, all the staff that work in the district operations. I didn't know that these were the program dollars for the communities. I thought they were just the staff that were there and I was anticipating that maybe there was a reduction in the number of staff in those district offices. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Would the Minister like to respond?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want clarification on the question. Is he asking the number of staff? Or is he just wanting clarification that it is what is covered under here?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Martin's response indicated that this was an accounting reduction, and it is a reduction in the programs. But my assumption was that this was... The North Slave and South Slave district offices were fully staffed. I just thought that if there was \$2 million less spent in the North Slave office only two fiscal years ago, if there was a reduction in the staff that caused that. That was what my question was. Maybe I will ask the question: was there a reduction in the staff in either of those two offices, North Slave or South Slave?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our active position list sheet, you would notice

that we had 116 positions in 2015-16. We have 116 positions for this year as well. There has been no change in any of the districts for this year. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I get another explanation from Mr. Martin? I will try to follow it a little bit better now. It is just that I am not sure that I fully understood what the response was. I will try to quantify what I think that would be. It is just that I was listening for something else and heard something else. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We started off the year with a certain sum of capital project dollars. At the end of the year, we deliver those dollars. At the end of the year we do review the scopes of the projects and ensure that we have proper accounting at the end of the year. In some cases, when we review the scopes, we realize that it is more of a minor O and M nature project as opposed to a major capital project. As a result of that, those capital dollars, we end up with less capital expenditures for that particular year, in this case 2014-15, and more O and M expenditures than previously planned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Martin. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Do we have any further comments or questions on page 370? Seeing none, I shall call the page. NWT Housing Corporation, programs and district operations, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$32,440,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Looks like we have one information item on page 372. Do we have comments or questions on this? I'll give committee a moment. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I realize that in order to meet demand the Housing Corporation rents or leases units from private landlords. Is there the interest or the budget to phase out their renting of places from private landlords? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you. I'll let Mr. Anderson answer that, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a few, about 200 units that we rent out of the marketplace right now. That's 200 units of about 2800 rental units. We have over time looked at opportunities to build when we had the capital to. Because you can potentially save money in brand new energy efficient buildings rather than leasing in some cases, but it's not something that we're actively pushing towards getting out of units in rental market through lease at this time. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: That's good, thanks.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In terms of leases and the work with the Housing Corporation and LHOs, earlier I think I understood the Minister alluding to the idea of perhaps at some point there could be an arrangement where responsibilities could be arranged so that First Nation organizations that maybe have self-government negotiations in place or already completed, could be a party for a self-government arrangement so that they could be responsible for at least administering and maintaining housing programs at the local level. Could the Minister maybe explain in terms of what she had envisioned in that process? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Previously, Aboriginal governments have come forward and wanted to take ownership of their housing needs and we tried to work with them and those attempts weren't really successful. I am really committed to, and I believe, like I had stated many times, that self-governance is important for Indigenous people, and within that true self-governance means that you have to take on ownership of your housing, your children, et cetera. I am really more than open to working with an Aboriginal organization that's willing to try out a pilot project, but I really want to stress that I am not willing to set people up to fail, so it would take a lot of negotiations to sit down with that community to define what exactly that community would need to be able to sustain that. What their strengths are; what are the areas that they need support in, and then developing a really comprehensive plan so that when they do take over their housing within their community they have the tools and infrastructure to succeed within that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you. Yes, this could be my last question, Mr. Chair. I take in understanding that process too, it was alluded to that similar... If there's going to be a path or an approach to making that possibility at some point arriving with the Housing Corporation and with the bodies of First Nation, something very similar or parallel to that process was achieved and it's called the New Deal where a lot of the program or funds were devolved to local governments to administer on their own behalf. Would the corporation consider a precedent of that nature to ensure that successes are reached? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am a little bit not aware of this program or the New Deal; however, I'm being informed that self-governments would have to ask to draw down jurisdiction to able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Mr. Nadli?

MR. NADLI: Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Nothing further from Mr. Nadli. Seeing no further comments or questions we will return to page 358, the total corporation expenditure. Do we have comments or questions on 358? There seems to be some confusion among committee members here. Page 358 is the total corporation expenditure. Are there comments or questions on page 358? It's our final page in the Housing Corporation. All comments were dealt with during the details? I will call the page. NWT Housing Corporation. \$109,380,000... Oh, sorry, let me start again.

---Laughter

I'll get one of these right. NWT Housing Corporation, total corporation expenditure, \$109,380,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Members. Does committee agree this concludes consideration of the NWT Housing Corporation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister, and thank you to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. All right, committee, we agreed to continue with our discussion of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We already agreed earlier, but that's good. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the Chamber? Minister McLeod.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. We will gather up the witnesses. Just give us a moment.

Sorry about that confusion. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right I have Kelly Kaylo, acting deputy minister. To my left I have Deb Archibald, assistant deputy minister, mineral and petroleum resources, and to my far right Julie Mujcin, director, finance and administration. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Committee, we left on pages 240 and 241, economic diversification and business support. We're looking at the detail of this division. Do we have any further comments or questions on pages 240 and 241? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I had a couple of questions here. I'm just wondering what's happening with the Film Rebate Program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's continuing, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. We are spending money in 2016-17 to support the Film Rebate Program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It didn't match up with anything on the page, so, but it's continuing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Okay. The Growing Forward 2 funding, can anybody with the Minister or staff explain whether NFTI, the Northern Farm Training Institute, actually got any support in 2015-16 and how much? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. We are discussing pages 240 and 241. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. NFTI did receive funding. The federal government provided \$2 million in funding through CanNor to undertake this project, and ITI contributed \$200,000. In addition to this funding, ITI has provided another \$120,000 in Growing Forward 2 and SEED funding directly to NFTI since 2014. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. NFTI would continue to be eligible for Growing Forward 2 funding and perhaps something under the Northern Food Development Program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That's correct, Mr. Chair, as long as there's funding available in those pots. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just not quite sure how the funding works for these two programs. Is it distributed through the regions, the regional offices, or is it done through headquarters and how does an organization like NFTI apply for this funding? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All of the funding in those programs are in the regions. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, I appreciate the answer. I think that's part of the issue is, as I understand it from NFTI's perspective, is that when they want to support work that's actually building capacity within the regions they have to make a whole bunch of different applications to different regional offices to support people coming in to their facility and getting training and then going back and building capacity in their own regions and communities. Is there any other kind of model or approach we could consider here to help support this organization? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The funding is in the region; we believe the regions know best who to support. There's a number of different models we can follow. We could centralize all the money in Yellowknife and we can make those decisions, and I'm sure there's other models as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I'm not suggesting that the money be centralized in Yellowknife but obviously if a small non-profit has to make a number of applications to different regions to support work and building capacity there that creates an administrative burden on a small NGO. Is this something that the department has considered and what sort of solutions might there be? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We think the current model works quite well. The region knows best who to support. The regions support individuals to attend NFTI. As I said, there's other models; we could centralize it in Hay River and have them provide all the funding. But we don't see it as a problem for having to apply to a number of different pots. Actually, I think it works quite well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Well, while the department may not see it as a problem as I understand from NFTI they do have a problem. They spend a lot of time and effort in trying to apply to the different regions for pots of money and there's some administrative burden involved in filling out different application forms, trying to talk to different regional offices about status of applications and so on. I'm going to leave it at that, but I hope the department would try to find a way to make sure that we can better promote agriculture and support this institution in building capacity in the regions. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Would the Minister like to respond?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess it's the first I heard that NFTI had some problems. We're prepared to go and talk to them. If applications are submitted on a timely basis there's usually no problem. We'll follow up with NFTI and see exactly what the problem is then. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: No thanks, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the commitment of the Minister to follow up with NFTI and try to find a way to streamline or improve support for agriculture. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. I have no one further on my list so we can proceed to the next page, page 242. Economic diversification and business support, active positions. Comments? Questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There's a reduction in two positions here and can the Minister or staff tell us whether those are vacant positions and what they are and so on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. There was internal reallocation of one position from MPR to MPI, and there's one reduction in an economic development officer position. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Yes, thanks Mr. Chair. I'm not sure how to approach this because I've asked, and now this will be third time I've asked for information to be compiled about staffing changes that are presented in the budget and we still don't have it. We've just finished the Housing Corp. In any event, I've asked twice now different Ministers, the Finance Minister, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, if we could get this information consolidated. I believe it's impeding my ability as an MLA to be able to review the budget. I asked over 10 days ago now, I believe, for this information, I still don't have it, and I don't understand what the problem is in producing it. Now that I've got the Premier here I'll ask if they can undertake to provide this information to us to help us review the budget department by department. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess it is the first I heard of it. If the committee wants information in that fashion, we will endeavour to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have raised this twice now. This is the third time. I would really appreciate having the information as soon as

possible to help us review departmental budgets. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks Mr. O'Reilly. Any additions to that? Mr. Minister.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: No, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Additional questions on page 242? Seeing none, we shall move on to 244. Go back. 239. Industry, Tourism and Investment, economic diversification and business support, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$21,087,000. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. On this page, program detail, it says other program costs, there are \$17 million in there. I think I understand what it is, but it would be much more helpful if that could be split out in some way. We are talking about economic diversification and business support. To have \$17 million sort of lumped together is not really very helpful for the public or Regular MLAs in understanding how we are actually investing that money. Could I ask the Minister if he and his staff could undertake in the future to provide an actual breakdown here, so we could see what sort of funding is provided to agriculture, arts and crafts, traditional economy, film industry, some of the things that we see in the contribution side, but presumably there is some program support dollars that go along with the contribution money, unless I am not really understanding things very well? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that, through the budgeting process, normally we review the process with committee to see how it can be improved on, including the reporting and detail. My understanding is that is available. That is an exercise that is done on an annual basis. My understanding is that this is a template that all departments use. Certainly, if the committee feels that we should break it out into finer detail, we are quite prepared to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Yes. Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am asking for a breakdown similar to the description on page 238 where it says, "Specific programs support arts and fine crafts, agriculture, fisheries, trapping and commercial game harvesting." That kind of a breakdown if that is helpful at all. That, I think would be a reasonable thing to look at, rather than a \$17 million investment in a whole number of different areas. But, Mr. Chair, I do have one other question

here. It is about the money for the diamond secondary industry. Can the Minister or his staff explain what we are actually getting for the \$617,000 that we spend on that? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. The 17 other program costs, that is noted as a request for detail. We will move on to the upper programs, \$617,000 as requested by Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have a diamond division, I guess if I could call it that, that includes three people that work with the diamond industry promoting value added and also promoting the brands of the diamonds in the Northwest Territories. We are involved with marketing, and we also keep track of the trends in the diamond industry. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The amount of money in this line is decreasing over time. Is that what we can expect in the future as well? I am just not sure what we are getting out of the secondary industry at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member may or may not know, through our socio-economic agreements, diamond mines could make up to ten per cent of their diamond rough production available for secondary manufacturing. This is a sector that we have been trying to make it a going concern and to make it sustainable. We are still of that view. We believe that, as the production of diamonds increases in the Northwest Territories, that we will continue to do so. We will continue to work to develop the secondary diamond industry so that we can increase the value added to here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't have any further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Carrying on. Total activity, \$21,087,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you. Moving on to the next summary, on page 244. Industry, Tourism and Investment, minerals and petroleum resources, operations expenditure

summary, total activity on page 244. We will defer that and go into detail, starting with page 245. Go ahead, Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am wondering what role the Mackenzie Valley development contribution is playing in the role of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. When I Googled them, their site is empty. I thought that they had dissolved. I am wondering what kind of support the government continues to supply to the APG. Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are continuing to contribute to the operations of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister please provide some detail about the total amount of contribution and what exactly it pays for? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We contribute \$100,000 and it pays to help with offices and salaries and some office supplies. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you Mr. Chair. Could the Minister please tell us why the government is continuing to support the Aboriginal Pipeline Group? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline, after a long environmental assessment regulatory review process, was granted a certificate of conveyance and public necessity, which was recently extended, the sunset clause was extended until 2022. The Aboriginal Pipeline Group has arrangements when the pipeline goes ahead to become one-third owners of the Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister explain why the government continues to contribute to this organization when the project to

build the pipeline is on the back burner indefinitely? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I said, the sunset clause has been extended to 2022. It was also looking at other opportunities for Aboriginal equity participation. We believe that is still an opportunity so that is why we are contributing a lesser amount of \$100,000 per year. Others are contributing as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is there any kind of reporting that the Aboriginal Pipeline Group does on its activities and expenditures to this government? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Consistent with other contribution arrangements, they have to meet the financial requirements of this government and report back on that basis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister please tell me where to find that information? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would refer the Member to our grants and contributions annual report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Can the Minister tell us when that was last filed? Is it up to date for the previous fiscal year? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: 2014-15. It is pretty up to date. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister for his answers. Nothing further.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to stay under the item Mackenzie Valley development contribution. It is noticed that the contribution amount has been reduced by just over \$300,000. Can the department give an explanation for that reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The amount of funding to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group has been reduced by \$250,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you. I appreciate that. Can I get clarification on what MPR stands for in MPR contributions various? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. MPR. Mineral Petroleum Resources, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you. Is it safe to suggest that the reason why there is no contribution being made in the last two years is because of the downturn in the oil and gas industry? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The money primarily went for contributions with universities for various research projects and also the budget has been moved into the contract section. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: No further questions, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I asked the Minister some questions about the Mining Incentive Program the other day. We have heard in several statements it is a great program that generates a lot of economic activity in the exploration sector. I also

asked if this amount would be increased. I note that it is staying the same in this budget, and the ministry indicated that the long-term plan for the Mining Incentive Program is to expand it. Can the Minister just confirm that that is the department's perspective of this very successful program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is our expectation. We would hope to aspire to that before the end of the term of the 18th Legislative Assembly.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Was this program modelled on the Yukon's program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We share information and adopt best practices, and we felt it was successful in the Yukon so it should be successful here as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just would like to go back to the Mackenzie Valley development contribution of \$400,000. I believe I heard the Minister say that we're spending \$100,000 for offices and salary and so on. What's the other \$300,000 for then? Thanks. Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Primarily for helping build business capacity in the Aboriginal governments, Aboriginal capacity building and community consultations, as well as resource pre-development program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. This extra \$300,000, does that go to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group or does it go to individual Aboriginal governments upon application or how does... What's it used for? Who can access it and how? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's application base. It's available to Aboriginal governments, Aboriginal businesses, Aboriginal businessman. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Like a previous colleague speaking, I'm not sure why we continue to support the Aboriginal Pipeline Group when we've actually wound down our own office in Hay River, but in any event I'll just leave that as a comment. I did want to ask, though, about Canadian Zinc socio-economic agreement. There's \$30,000 there and is that money that we contribute to the company or what is that money actually for? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That money is part of the socio-economic agreement that we negotiated with Canadian Zinc and it is money that we spend to meet with the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer. The description talks about a socio-economic advisory committee, so that money is used to support GNWT staff then to attend these committee meetings, is that what it's used for? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The mine is not in operation so this is for preparatory work to set up an advisory committee when the mine is up and running. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. As I understand it, the property is basically sort of in care and maintenance. Do we actually expect to spend this money this year if there's not much happening at the site? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Like we want to do, we are trying to anticipate and work with the communities to help build capacity, so

when the project goes ahead they'll be ready and we'll be ready, and it would work in the best interests if the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response. The Diavik socio-economic agreement funding of \$50,000: it was my understanding that the company had done work to do away with the Diavik Communities Advisory Board. Is that body still working and if so can the Minister or staff tell me whether that board is still functioning? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct. The board is no longer in operation, but in lieu of it we meet with the communities with regards to Diavik. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just trying to understand this a little bit better. The money appears in the contribution section, so to me that sort of indicates that we're giving the money out to a third party, but what I hear the Minister saying is that the money's actually used to support GNWT staff going to meetings. Am I misinterpreting or misunderstanding this in some way? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. ARCHIBALD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The money is for the purposes of implementation of the socio economic. The Member is correct that the Diavik Communities Advisory Board is not in existence anymore. In lieu of that, as the Minister stated, we meet with communities. This money represents contributions to the communities to prepare for those meetings, to host the meetings in their community, et cetera. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer. I think I understand much better now what the funding's actually used for. I just want to move on to the Mining Incentive Program. Do we actually have any way to measure how effective this money has been in say the discovery of new properties? Have any of the properties that are being explored as a result of this program? Have any of them actually gone into production? How do we evaluate

the effectiveness of the investment that's made here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right now we primarily evaluate it or based on the... As we said, we spent a dollar, we get the industry to spend... It's resulted in the industry spending \$2.7. We've only had this program going for two years, so it's too early for it to result in having a brand new mine developed. It is bringing in money for exploration which is the backbone of mining. The recipients have to provide the reports and in our prospectors grub stake, two prospectors have sold projects to junior mining companies. That will certainly be another indicator of success. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That sounds helpful. I'm just wondering though, does the department think it would be a good idea to develop some sort of criteria or way to measure the success of this program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe the fact that it's oversubscribed and the fact that it's resulted in increased spending and as an industry we already have a guideline that for every dollar you spend on geoscience it results in \$5 on exploration and when it goes to development it's about \$150. We think that the criteria we have now is sufficient. We only have \$400,000, so we don't want to spend a lot of money developing additional criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing time, I'll allow one more question there, Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: I think I'll pass for now, Mr. Chair, because I've got some other things I'd like to explore on this page. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to get some clarity questions. My question relates to on page 244 it says, "client service and community relations," and I think last year it was a \$1,109,000 and it's decreased to \$1,055,000. Maybe the Minister could explain just the reduction and just explain the nature of this initiative plans for this and community relations, whether it's focused strictly on industry or is it as compared to the regulatory

participation that we expect from a First Nations group? Mahsi.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is an area where we work with industry and also the communities and we provide a liaison function and also I guess a navigator kind of role I would think. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm familiar with another initiative that's very similar in its nature. It's called the Interim Resource Management Assistance Program where non-claiming groups could access funding to participate in regulatory processes, whether it's an environmental assessment or participating in the liaison with a lot of groups across the North. How does that compare with the IRMA Program, the client service and the community relations? Mahsi.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My recollection of an IRMA is that it was a cost-shared program between the Government of Canada and the Government of Northwest Territories on a two-third/one-third basis, and it was application based and funding was provided directly to the Aboriginal government that applied for the money. This is different than the fact that it's working between industry and the Aboriginal communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Further questions. Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do have a couple of areas I want to explore and I think I'm going to probably run out of time, or we're going to have to have dinner soon, but the contribution to the Chamber of Mines that's shown on this page, is that core funding that's provided to this Chamber of Mines? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's not core funding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. If it's not core funding, what is the funding actually for? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. ITI's contribution to the Chamber of Mines is a decision that's made yearly and it's one that provides funding to assist with ITI in implementing the Mineral Development Strategy. We see it as funding as not an operating subsidy. It's not used for salaries or for rent. Funding is tailored on a yearly basis and is largely a partnership with the chamber to deliver on promotional efforts in support of marketing the Northwest Territories to the resource industry and help promote the Northwest Territories as an attractive and high potential destination for investment dollars. Events include the NWT information session, one half day at PDAC which is a Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada, invests in CanNor Seminar, at PDAC, participation at PDAC, and also the Cordilleran Roundup. ITI also partners with the chamber to do targeted research on a case-by-case basis. One such example was the recently released Abacus Mining Survey that was a public opinion poll on mining in the Northwest Territories. This survey serves as a baseline from which we can assess our report card on how the Northwest Territories is doing on many subjects such as regulatory, socio-economic, and environmental. Funding also assists in their capacity to engage in reviews of legislation and regulations such as ongoing reviews of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. Funding also works towards education initiatives. Examples include bartering with the Chamber of Mines last fall to complete three successful prospecting courses in Yellowknife, Ndilo, and Behchoko. Fifty participants attended and completed the course. Student engagement at the Geoscience Forum in Yellowknife where we support education connections so that local students and educators can learn about minerals in the mining industry through hands-on activities and also a career exploration event. The Mineral Development Strategy has funded the transportation for students from Yellowknife, Detah, Ndilo, and Behchoko to attend this event. Eleven classes from grade four to six attended in 2015. The chamber also assisted and participated in the Regional Mineral Strategy Workshop and is involved ongoing in the future delivery of workshops. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. We're going to keep going? It's after 6:00. Okay. The last of the questions I have is where would I find funding for the Mineral Industry Advisory Board? Is that in this section? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's not under the contributions; it's under O and M. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I presume that we're in the right section here, so what's the funding for the Mineral Industry Advisory Board? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The maximum allotted is \$10,000; the amount utilized has averaged around \$5,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering if the Minister can explain what the difference is between the Mineral Industry Advisory Board and the Chamber of Mines. I understand the membership might be different, but can you explain now the function of these two organizations is different? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The mineral advisory board provides high-level advice to myself and the chamber deals with mining on an issue-by-issue basis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess though in some cases the Minister's getting advice from the same people? Because probably some of the same people involved in the chamber are also involved with the Mineral Industry Advisory Board? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are some members that are on both, but they're essentially different and they're not carbon copies of both boards. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can anybody tell me how often does this Mineral Industry Advisory Board meet? Is it once, twice a year, and have they actually met in the last year? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We meet at least once a year. I think this year, because they had a new minister, we were going to attempt to meet this summer as well. We met in January, and we are looking at meeting again. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I understand that the membership of the board is just people from the mining industry, and that's good, but has the department looked at a way to try to broaden representation of other public interests on the board, including say Aboriginal governments or environmental organizations to just provide a bit more representative set of advice to the Minister? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. The chamber has a number of Aboriginal business people, Aboriginal miners on their board. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing the time, I shall call for a break for dinner.

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CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): We will resume on page 245. Any further questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'll see if I do any better on a full belly. I wanted to go back to the Mineral Industry Advisory Board. I think I heard the Premier say that there were Aboriginal members of the Chamber of Mines, and that... I'm not quite sure what the connection is to the Mineral Industry Advisory Board because I was asking about whether the department was prepared to consider broadening the membership of the Mineral Industry Advisory Board to include other interests, including Aboriginal governments and environmental organizations and so on. Can I ask again of the Minister: is the department prepared to look at

broadening the representation on the Mineral Industry Advisory Board? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have an Aboriginal member on the Mineral Industry Advisory Board. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's helpful to know, but is the Minister prepared to expand the board to make it more representative of other public interests, environmental organizations or tourism or whatever? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'll review the terms of reference of the Mineral Industry Advisory Board and see if it falls within the parameters, but we're always prepared to look at all boards. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, and I have looked at the terms of reference for the Mineral Industry Advisory Board and I believe that there were concerns actually raised in this House in the previous Assembly about the need to make it more representative of various interests. I'm just wondering when the Minister might be able to consider that and get back to Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll take the Member's request under advisement. We have other boards as well that fulfill the functions that the Member has raised so we'll see how we can best serve the interests of the people in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate that commitment from the Minister. I guess what's driving my concern or issue here is that the department is committed to develop a Mineral Resources Act, and that's something that I support as well, but there are some, I think, fundamental issues that are going to arise during the development of that legislation such as whether we want to continue the free entry system as the

preferred or the only method of managing mineral resources. I'm just a little bit concerned that the Minister would be getting advice on that legislation primarily from the Mineral Industry Advisory Board which is made up of the mining industry, and I'm just worried about the fairness of that sort of process. That's why I'm raising these issues. I'd like to ask the Minister if the Mineral Industry Advisory Board is going to be giving the Minister advice on drafting and putting together this legislation. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's one body not the only body that will give us advice. We'll go out for a broad range of input so I don't see it as only relying on one body. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't want to prolong this. I appreciate the commitment from the Minister. Would the department be prepared to provide its communications plan on how it's going to put together the Minerals Resources Act to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We work very closely with the committees and I fully expect that we will share that information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, that's the questions I have on this page. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Further questions? Recognizing none. Moving on. Page 246, Industry, Tourism and Investment, minerals and petroleum resources, active positions. Any questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There's some significant changes in the staffing levels. Can the Minister or staff explain generally what's going on and how many of those positions are vacant? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Seventeen positions reductions, 12 are filled, five are vacant. I provided this information the other

day, but I'm pleased to present it again. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I've probably been asleep at the wheel for a while here, but 17 and 12, it looks to me like there's a difference here of 11 positions in this section. Can the Minister tell me what happened with those 11 positions, generally what they are, and whether they were vacant or not? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, seven headquarters positions, two South Slave positions, two Inuvik positions:

- one administrative assistant, vacant;
- one manager petroleum royalty administration, filled;
- one manager industrial initiatives, filled;
- one industrial initiatives analyst, vacant;
- two mining recorder clerks, filled;
- two district geologists, one vacant;
- one transfer of a mineral DS position to MPR, vacant;
- two South Slave positions for Mackenzie Valley pipeline petroleum office, filled;
- two transfer of marketing promotions to MPR from corporate management, filled;
- two Inuvik positions;
- one oil and gas offshore specialist, filled;
- one rights administrator, vacant.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. No more questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Questions? Seeing none. We shall go back to activity total on page 244, Industry, Tourism and Investment, minerals and petroleum resources, operations expenditure summary. Activity total: \$16,078,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Agreed. Okay, moving on. Page 249, Industry, Tourism and Investment, tourism and parks, operations expenditure summary. We shall move on detail starting with page 249. Industry, Tourism and Investment, tourism and parks, grants, contributions and transfers. Questions? Recognizing Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the convention bureau, under the description it notes that "the contributions to NWT Tourism to establish a convention bureau for the NWT." I know that the convention bureau aspect of NWT Tourism is having some very positive effects on the Northwest Territories. That department, amongst other things, does a lot of work as it relates to promoting the North and then attracting outside associations to host their AGMs and the like here. I just wonder if this is funding that we'll see on an ongoing basis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

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

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: I appreciate that we're going to see this money indefinitely. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could I have more detail about the convention bureau, what's planned with that initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I should clarify. MLA Vanthuyne said it would be indefinitely; I wouldn't go as far to say it will be indefinitely, it will go until 2018-19. The convention bureau works with regions and communities to determine their capacity, what capacity they have to host conventions, and we try to match up whatever interests there are for conventions in the Northwest Territories so that other communities besides Yellowknife also have opportunities and other regions also have the potential to host conventions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For clarification, does the convention bureau also do

work in Yellowknife or is it primarily focused on the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: It does work on behalf of all the communities in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I noticed community tourism infrastructure, remains at \$100,000. Does the department have an inventory of the project that it supports and can it share what that money went towards in 2015-16? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we have that information and it's in our annual grants and contributions report and we can provide that information to the Member or I could read it out for him right now if that's what he wants. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. What's your wish, Mr. Testart?

MR. TESTART: I can review the report, Mr. Chair, thank you. I note one of the complaints I guess or criticism of our otherwise spectacular and ever growing tourism market is there's not enough things to do in our communities. I think this contribution could bear a lot of fruit in developing our tourism market by having more attractions and drawing more people in. Has the department taken a look at how to use this funding to kind of produce more tourism draws in our communities and get more people coming? For instance, just going back to the convention bureau, our convention space is rather limited; we don't have a convention centre in Yellowknife, for example, so it somewhat caps our ability to bring in large venues and national organizations who want to have their conventions here. Has the department taken a look at using this funding, or perhaps even increasing this funding to develop more capacity for tourism support in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We provide \$3.3 million to NWT Tourism, and we're always looking at ways to improve our program. If building community infrastructure... Sort of if you build it they will come. Generally we take the approach of having tourism products developed. We have a large focus on Aboriginal tourism right

now and certainly the community tourism infrastructure is fully subscribed as well. Whatever opportunities we have to increase our tourism products, we try to take advantage of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Minister for his comments. Can I get the total amount that it's subscribed by in dollar figures, if the department has that handy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'd have to dig that up. We just have the actual that was awarded for 2014-15 right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, we provided \$225,000 in 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In our previous discussion, the Mining Incentive Program we have kind of a hard number: \$400,000 is given out, but I think it's \$1.2 million that it's oversubscribed by. That's like the total amount of activity it could contain. That's kind of the figure I'm looking for, just a sense of how many dollars are trying to access this fund and flow out of it. I take it that might not be readily available so I'm content to receive that from the department at a later date. My last question is about the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre. The infrastructure of that building is going through some tough times right now. Is the department looking at working with the centre to repair that damage and stabilize the building through some of its contribution funding? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are not involved with the owners of the building, but we have been working with the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre and providing assistance in kind, and also helping them move through information gathering steps so that they could be in a position where they can evaluate the full extent of the problem and the cost required to address the situation. Ultimately, our government will try to support the Northern Frontier Visitors Association. Any steps or any next steps or further steps on funding decisions will have to be made on the basis of solid information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Question was asked. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There's a reduction on the tourism diversification program, and I'm wondering if the Minister and his staff can explain that? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I didn't understand his question.

CHAIRPERSON: (Mr. McNeely): Could you repeat, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes—. We are still looking at 249, contributions. There is tourism diversification program. There's a reduction from 2015-16, and can the Minister or staff explain the reduction? It appears in mains. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is an area where the department commits to restoring the full budget of the tourism product, diversification and marketing programs for 2016-17. An ongoing fiscal year subject to budget approval of the Legislative Assembly, the department will restore \$250,000 to the program that was proposed as a budget reduction and meet the department's reduction commitments from other program areas of ITI. The funding will be found through an across-the-board O and M reduction: the activities, the directorate, policy, legislation and communication, and diamond secondary industry office. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't really understand the process here very well, but are we approving a different amount in the vote, or do the mains get reprinted or what? I'm sorry. I just don't understand because I'm new. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. The total amount does not change, but the tourism diversification program will be put back to, made whole, I guess is the best way to put it, and that funding will come from other O and M. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the commitment by the Minister. I'm just trying to understand, are we still voting on the number that's listed over on page 246? Does that change in some amount, or I just don't understand how this is going to appear. Presumably, the departmental budget overall is not changing, but we're talking about... The Minister talked about some internal reallocations. How does that show up in the mains? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Maybe the Finance Minister can answer in more detail, but my understanding is that the total will not change. The main estimates have already been printed, so we can't change that. When the budgets are loaded up, it will reflect the fact that this tourism product diversification marketing budget will be made whole, and when the budgets are loaded, the \$250,000 will come from other O and M and be reduced by that amount and added into tourism program. Perhaps through you, Mr. Chair, the Minister of Finance may have further detail to eliminate this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will allow the Finance Minister to clarify your question. Mr. O'Reilly. It's 249, if it's the willingness of the Finance Minister to add clarity.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Minister's comment is absolutely correct. The \$250,000 that the Member speaks of, the numbers in here, the overall budget for the department won't change, and the Minister has made a commitment, and I think we made a written commitment to reinstate that \$250,000, and they will find the money, as the Minister explained, in some other areas of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I'm not questioning in any way the commitment on the part of the Premier and the Finance Minister to do this, so I'll be quiet about this, but at the end of the day, I still want to sort of understand how, whether we're sort of voting on these amounts or how does it get reprinted or how does it show up at the end of the day. I don't question the commitment in any way. This has been the subject of some ongoing discussions, and really appreciate the work that the Minister of Finance, the Minister of ITI's undertaken, so I'm just trying to understand how it

shows up in a printed version, but I'll go and ask the Minister or staff afterwards rather than tie up the time tonight, but I do appreciate the commitment and the responses, and in no way am I questioning their sincerity or anything on this, just trying to understand operationally how it works, but I can do that offline. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Further questions. Seeing none. We shall move on to detail on page 250, Industry, Tourism and Investment, tourism and parks, active positions. Questions? Seeing none. Moving on, page 251, Industry, Tourism, Investment, lease commitments. Any questions? Recognizing Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'd like to hear from the Minister some detail on the future lease payments. If this office is winding down, for how much longer is the government going to pay the lease on this office? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The business of government continues. Other positions are being moved into those offices, and the government will continue to utilize that space. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister for his answer.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just keeping in continuity with our procedures, I'm wondering if through you, Mr. Chair, are we going to actually give approval on the tourism and parks portion of the ITI budget? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: (Mr. McNeely): Yes. We're going to go back to that activity total afterwards, and 251. Questions on 251. Seeing none. We shall go back to 248, Industry, Tourism and Investment, tourism and parks, operations expenditures summary, activity total, \$14,283,000. Agreed. Page 252, Industry, Tourism and Investment, Northwest Territories Environmental Studies Research Fund. Questions. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. As I understand it, this is something that was set up as a result of requirements in the federal legislation. We simply mirrored it, but I have some questions about how that was done and so on. I want to start with the revenue line here. There's a big drop between

2014-15 and 2015-16. Can someone explain what that drop is all about? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. The money came from the feds and there's been no activity whatsoever, so it's down to zero. The money is provided by industry as well normally. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just so I understand it, this was some money that was given to us for devolution implementation as a pot or something, and now we've spent it all? Is that what I'm hearing here, Mr. Chair? Thanks.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The money was collected from the oil and gas industry that required to put the money into this Environmental Studies Research Fund, and normally, it would... There was a going concern there would be additional funding going into the revolving or research fund, but the fact that there's no activity in the oil and gas sector, so there's no industry putting any money into it. The money that had 974... I'll ask through you, Mr. Chair... I'll ask Ms. Archibald to provide further detail. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. ARCHIBALD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct that the Environmental Studies Research Fund was established under the Petroleum Resources Act. It's a special-purpose fund, and the purpose is to provide funding to environmental and social studies designed to assist in decision-making processes related to oil and gas exploration, development, and production. It was exactly mirrored as was a requirement under the devolution agreement, so we did not make any changes. It was formally established in September of last year. Just to clarify a point, the monies represented here are money from industry that are derived from levies on them, and the levy is calculated on the basis of the size or the acreage of their interest holders. Part of the reason that there has been a decline is that the amount of levy is tied directly to the dollar value of research proposals that we receive, and so for this year, the amount, the total dollar value of the proposals was \$100,000, and the levy was established and divided up amongst the oil and gas interests on that basis to support those. This year, its four projects relate

to looking at the effects on caribou and water. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the answer. I'm somewhat familiar with the fund and what it does. We're not actually collecting any revenues this year to support work under the fund. Is that what I'm getting here, Mr. Chair? Thank you.

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

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

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. As I understand, I think there is, though, some sort of a research agenda or a strategic plan or whatever for research under this fund, so there's still more work to be done. We haven't been collecting any money to do it. Is that where we're at, Mr. Chair? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, there is an annual plan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I understand that the department is going to be looking at the Petroleum Resources Act and reviewing that during the 18th Assembly. Is there any plan to look at the composition of the board and try to make the process a little bit more open and transparent? I don't think there's actually like a public call for proposals, and the board could probably use a little bit more public interest representation. Are those matters that the department will be looking at in reviewing the Petroleum Resources Act? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we're planning to look at it. There is a public member at large on the board, and there is a public call for proposals, but all of those things will be looked at as we go forward in reviewing the different oil and gas legislation that we talked about earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the commitment of the department to look at trying to make the fund a little more transparent and accountable and representative of the public interest. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Questions. Seeing none, we should move on to page 253, Industry, Tourism and Investment, work performed on behalf of others. Questions. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There's three line items here for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. I guess these were different contribution agreements. I just want to understand whether the funding is wound down for these arrangements, was the work actually done for each of them? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The first one was funding received for the Canadian Arctic Research Station. The second, INAC one, was funding received under the Strategic Investment and Northern Economic Development Program for geoscience research projects, and the third one is Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada funding received for the Canol Trail Wire Clean-up. I don't think the CHARS project is finished yet, so there may be some funding identified there. The SINED had money. We have applied, it's application-based, and that's generally applied through CanNor. Also, the Canol Trail Wire Clean-up; that's a responsibility of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. They may or may not provide... In the past, or last year, they provided funding to allow us to work with the Sahtu community to do some work on cleaning up the Canol Trail tourism project. Also, geoscience was a large part of the SINED funding, which was a second INAC bracket there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. These funding arrangements, they're finished. I guess, in particular, I was curious about the Canol Trail work. Has that actually been completed? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the Sahtu Secretariat and the people in the Sahtu have been waiting a long time for the land for the Canol Trail tourism project to be made available to them so that they can start promoting it. Until it's cleaned up, that's still the responsibility of the

federal government. Our understanding is that additional funding will be provided this year, and quite a significant number, but we couldn't include it because the arrangements have not been concluded. We only put it on the books once we have a signed-off agreement. Until that happens, it would be inappropriate for me to put out a figure. We are expecting some more funding in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I've been out hiking on parts of the Canol Trail in the past and have myself actually become entangled with wire. I really want to make sure that work gets done and that it's safe for tourists and local people to go out there. I appreciate the efforts of the department in getting that work done and making the trail an important tourism attraction. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I was going to say it's a good thing you didn't have horns, but it might be taken the wrong way, so...

---Laughter

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Questions? Seeing none, we shall return to 231. Industry, Tourism and Investment, total department \$59,870,000, and we are agreed that the consideration of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is completed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you. Any closing comments, Mr. Minister?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the questions from the Members.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thanks to your witnesses for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Now we'll begin consideration with the Department of Justice. I will turn to the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice for opening comments.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm pleased to present the 2016-2017 main estimates for the Department of Justice. Overall, the Department's estimate proposes a decrease of just over \$3.4 million representing a decrease of 2.67 per cent over the 2015-2016 main estimates. The department's budget continues to balance the need to ensure effective frontline program delivery while supporting the government's objective of limiting

expenditure growth to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fiscal framework. The estimates represent the work of the department for the administration of a justice system that is open, accessible and responsive to the needs of the people it serves. We are presenting a budget that continues to be prudent and responsible. Accordingly, we are presenting just over \$4 million in expenditure reductions and reducing \$383,000 through sunseting programs, revenue has increased by six per cent or \$849,000 mainly due to fees administered by the legal registries division. These budget estimates represent \$874,000 in forced growth costs, primarily arising from increases under the Territorial Police Services Agreement. The department will continue to meet the priorities of this Assembly as described in the mandate. We will continue to support families when they are in conflict or personal crisis. The Parenting after Separation Workshop is now being offered over the Internet to reach families throughout the Northwest Territories. The Family Mediation Program is offered via telephone for parents looking for support. We are working to make information about these programs more accessible. We will strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence through a multi-pronged approach. This includes the promotion of training and education on the tools available under the Protection Against Family Violence Act, such as emergency protection orders, as well as under the Residential Tenancies Act to provide victims of domestic violence with more options. Additionally, work is being done with our partners to examine the feasibility of expanding the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court beyond the two communities currently served. In addition to these actions, we are committed to ensuring men are receiving the most appropriate healing programming to help them to address violent behaviours toward their domestic partners. We're improving access to justice in the Northwest Territories by expanding community legal outreach programs to make family law duty counsel services available to assist self-represented people for their first court appearances. As well, we will be expanding public legal education on programs and services available so people will know how to access the help they need.

Through these supports, families and individuals will be empowered to work towards successful resolutions, allowing them to return to more constructive and healthier alternatives. We will be supporting the RCMP and our communities as they work together as partners to prevent and respond to violence. Through policing priorities that speak to the unique needs of each and every community action plans are put in place that will allow further transparency and accountability. In order to improve our social response to crime reduction, we

will be examining and analyzing the information we learn from these plans as well as other research work that is underway with our territorial partners in the Yukon and Nunavut. We will continue to provide safe and secure custody of offenders. As the Assembly has identified, programs need to be culturally appropriate. There also needs to be a focus on rehabilitation programs that support reintegration back into communities. However, the causes of crime extend well beyond the confines of corrections facilities. We will work in collaboration as a government as we address the socioeconomic factors that are at the root of crime, including addictions and mental health issues, literacy and education rates, and poverty and homelessness. We will ensure that we are able to support government activities by building a proper base of legislation and regulations to support a strong and sustainable territory for the future. As part of this support, we are currently engaged in a review of the Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy Act and are actively working on the implementation of a framework to ensure privacy protections in the Act will be consistently applied across the GNWT. This concludes my opening remarks. I welcome your comments and questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I'd like to report progress please. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): The motion is in order, non-debatable. All in favour? All opposed?

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

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

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question's been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Orders of the day for Friday, June 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 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 Friday, June 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

