



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2nd Session

Day 42

18th Assembly

HANSARD

Thursday, November 3, 2016

Pages 1355 – 1384

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, November 3, 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, Mr. Testart, Hon. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, colleagues. Colleagues, before we commence our proceedings today, I wish to speak briefly about the difficult issue of childhood cancer. As we all know, children's cancer is not a rare disease. It has touched so many lives. In fact, 1,500 Canadian children will be diagnosed with cancer this year alone, and more than 10,000 kids are living with cancer in Canada today.

Although September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Canada, our House was not sitting, and I wish to take this opportunity now to spread awareness of this dreaded disease and its impacts on our lives and those of our constituents. Childhood cancer takes more lives than all other children's illnesses combined. One in five children will not survive their cancer diagnosis. Despite these terrible statistics, only three per cent of cancer research funding in Canada is directed to childhood cancer research.

No one is safe from the ravages of this disease. One of my colleagues, the Honourable Chris Collins, Speaker of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, and his family have been directly impacted. Speaker Collins and his wife had their son Sean taken away from them far too soon. Speaker Collins recently brought to my attention an initiative called the "Maggie Project," in memory of a little girl named Maggie Jenkins.

She was taken by the disease in 2014, just two weeks after being diagnosed. Her parents have donated lapel pins for every Member in this House in an effort to raise awareness of this dreaded disease. I would like to thank you for wearing the pin today, colleagues, and creating awareness and fundraising support for childhood cancer research efforts and vital programs and services that serve children with cancer across Canada.

On behalf of Speaker Collins and his family, and the Jenkins family, I thank you for your support and

time today. My prayers and the prayers of this House go out to all Northerners and Canadians so greatly impacted by this terrible disease. Masi, colleagues.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 106-18(2):
NATIONAL INQUIRY ON MISSING AND
MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS**

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to support and participate in a National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in collaboration with families, Aboriginal governments, the federal government, and other organizations.

I am pleased to report that on August 3, 2016, the Government of Canada formally launched the national inquiry. The launch included the appointment of five Commissioners to lead this work along with the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry. The Commissioners have been directed to recommend concrete actions to remove systemic causes of violence and increase the safety of Indigenous women and girls in Canada; they have also been directed to recommend ways to honour and commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls; and provide its recommendations to the Government of Canada through an interim report by November 1, 2017 and a final report by November 1, 2018.

The inquiry will be funded by the Government of Canada, with the participation and full cooperation of all the provinces and territories. The Commissioners are currently developing the process for the inquiry. I will continue to share any progress with Members.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has long supported the call for a national inquiry as we believe it is an important step in acknowledging and addressing the root causes of violence towards Indigenous women and girls in Canada. With this in mind our government is committed to doing its part to support the national

inquiry. An important first step as a show of our commitment was the registration of an order under the Public Inquiries Act on October 4th that provides the national inquiry with the authority to fully examine matters within the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, led by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, is currently in the process of establishing an interdepartmental working group to guide our participation in the inquiry. These efforts will include collaboration with our Aboriginal government partners, families and other stakeholders.

Our government continues to work with our federal, provincial and territorial government counterparts and the National Indigenous Organizations to fulfil the commitments agreed to during the Second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls held this past February in Winnipeg.

Among these efforts is the establishment of a pan-Canadian prevention and awareness campaign focused on changing the public perception and attitudes on the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls. We are sharing information and seeking advice from our Aboriginal government partners on how to address the issues of violence in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, violence against Indigenous women and girls remains a serious issue in the Northwest Territories. While we welcome the news of the national inquiry getting underway, it remains critically important for all governments to continue to do their part to ensure that the national attention on violence against Indigenous women and girls remains at the forefront. This includes improving communication and coordination between Indigenous families, communities, victim services, policing, prosecutions, women's groups, anti-violence groups and shelter workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 107-18(2):
RENEWAL OF THE NWT ABORIGINAL
LANGUAGES FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to strengthen culture and heritage in the NWT by working with stakeholders to update the 2010 NWT Aboriginal Languages Plan: A Shared Responsibility.

As we all know, there are nine official Aboriginal languages spoken throughout the Northwest Territories. Most of these languages are in a critical state and in real danger of disappearing over the next few decades. As our territory loses its elders, we find ourselves in a serious situation with fewer proficient, fluent speakers able to teach these traditional languages to our young people. Culture and language are closely connected, and while we see pockets of success throughout the territory, there needs to be a far greater focus from everybody on preserving and revitalizing these languages.

An updated NWT Aboriginal Languages Framework and Action Plan will reflect the government's new partnership approach to language revitalization, where regional Aboriginal governments are funded and responsible for managing their own language revitalization efforts.

The updated plan will also better capture the advice and recommendations gathered from Northerners and territorial language committees over many years. It will also include measures to ensure all partners in language revitalization remain accountable.

Mr. Speaker, languages are the foundation on which cultures are created. Language is integral to healthy communities, individual self-esteem and the growth and development of our people. Through the use of languages, people express their unique world-view, value and self-worth. Language helps people define relationships and collect and share knowledge.

The updated plan's vision is an NWT where Aboriginal languages are supported, respected and thriving to be celebrated by all people. This vision speaks to every NWT resident. Everyone has a role to play in preserving, promoting and celebrating the NWT's Aboriginal languages.

We are continuing to seek input to update the plan from language partners, including the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board and the Official Languages Board. Members of both language boards have reviewed past recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Government Operations in their 2009 and 2014 reviews of the Official Languages Act and offered their recommendations for an action plan.

I will continue to seek advice from Aboriginal language partners over the coming months to ensure we build the most comprehensive framework and action plan that outlines effective approaches in the revitalization of our Aboriginal languages. I will share updates with Members as this important work progresses.

Mr. Speaker, revitalizing languages is a monumental task and one that the government cannot do alone. Revitalizing our nine Aboriginal languages can only happen when all language groups, key stakeholders and all NWT residents share the responsibility to support, respect and use Aboriginal languages.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has made this a call to action for all provinces and territories, to ensure the future of Aboriginal languages and preserve the culture of Aboriginal peoples across Canada. I look forward to tabling the updated NWT Aboriginal Languages Framework and Action Plan: A Shared Responsibility during Aboriginal Languages Month in March 2017. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 108-18(2):
BUILDING A CULTURALLY COMPETENT
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past few years there has been an increased understanding and awareness that in Canada there is a disparity between the health status of Indigenous people and other Canadians. Acknowledging this reality forces us to confront difficult issues, including the legacies of colonization and the residential school system, and the fact that mainstream institutions have often not served Indigenous people effectively.

We must confront these issues if we are going to change. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action challenge us to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies. They further challenge us to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, to recognize the value of traditional Aboriginal healing practices, and to provide cultural competency training for all healthcare professionals. The government's mandate speaks to the need to deliver culturally appropriate services, and to implement the calls to action of the TRC.

Mr. Speaker, during my time as Minister of Health and Social Services, I have travelled to all the communities in the Northwest Territories. I've met with community leaders, attended Aboriginal Government Assemblies, and convened meetings with Aboriginal governments to discuss how to transform the health and social services system. I've heard over and over again that our system needs to do a better job of respecting the needs of

Indigenous people, and of honouring their traditions. I've heard that we need to ensure our staff are given the opportunity to learn, not only about northern cultures and history, but about the lasting impact of residential schools on today's families and communities. I've heard that there needs to be a place for traditional healing and traditional knowledge in our system.

We also need to recognize that other groups have experienced the effects of bias and lack of sensitivity when accessing services. The LGBTQ community has challenged us to do a better job of meeting their needs. Our communities are home to people representing cultures from around the world, and they all deserve to experience a high standard of service in our system.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will be tabling a document entitled "Building a Culturally Respectful Health and Social Services System." This document outlines what we've heard from people across the Northwest Territories, what we've learned, and how we plan to move forward in full partnership with Aboriginal governments, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Leadership Council, the Tlicho Community Services Agency, regional wellness councils, and other key stakeholder groups like the Rainbow Coalition of Yellowknife.

This document represents a commitment to action. The action planning will not be done in isolation. It will be done in collaboration with our partners, recognizing the principle of "nothing about us without us". This commitment is consistent with the government's priority of collaborating with Aboriginal governments. I look forward to working with people across the Northwest Territories as we continue to improve care and services for all our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DARNLEY BAY RESOURCE POTENTIAL

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the Arctic's greatest mysteries lies under the surface of Darnley Bay; a large circular shape gravity anomaly near Paulatuk suggests very unusual geology and may be the result of an ancient meteor strike. Whatever its origin may be, Mr. Speaker, it's the largest gravity anomaly discovered in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in 1969 the Geological Survey of Canada suggested the potential for massive deposits of nickel, copper and platinum minerals in

that area, almost five times the size of the Sudbury Basin. Areas like the Sudbury Basin are proven to be one of the world's richest resources of minerals such as nickel and copper. Darnley Bay could hold the same wealth, but in even larger quantities.

In addition, there is the diamond potential in this region, as indicated by kimberlite on the nearby Parry Peninsula. Mr. Speaker, these resources could mean big things for the region, the Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit. Darnley Bay Resources, a Canadian mining company, long ago negotiated the required agreements, permits and mineral rights.

It continues to hold exclusive mineral rights in this area and has spent in excess of \$20 million on exploration. Mr. Speaker, Darnley Bay is remote, expensive to access, an extremely challenging place to operate and explore. In 2011 the resource company wasn't able to complete its drilling program due to unstable permafrost conditions. Their last exploration project wrapped up in 2013. Mr. Speaker, like many companies, Darnley Bay has struggled with the downturn in the economy and has focused on other projects in order to raise money to invest back in the far North.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories must look towards future projects as our diamond mines reach the end of their life spans. There are exciting possibilities for exploration and discoveries in the Darnley Bay area. Mr. Speaker, the Arctic is changing quickly, it is becoming more and more accessible and the world is aware of the rich resource potential it offers.

Mr. Speaker, we need to plan for the future, preparing our workforce, providing opportunities for youth and community development and finding ways to facilitate research, baseline environmental study and gathering traditional knowledge alongside exploration. Developing project readiness is a wise use of time during a slump in the market. Mr. Speaker, Darnley Bay is significant to the future of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the honourable Members on the excellent work done in the interim report on the review of Standing Committee of Rules and Procedures on public engagement and transparency, and also the work done on revising the guiding principles and process conventions for consensus government. This attempt to bridge the

ever-growing democratic deficit is a real achievement by the 18th Assembly, and symbolizes that we are truly attempting to evolve our public engagement into 21st century standards, which admittedly, took a little longer than other jurisdictions, but not from the lack of effort of this Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's time for us to continue this good work while also keeping to this mandate commitment I and other honourable Members of this House are very passionate about, and that's transparency. The primary focus of our mandate to transparency is that we improve access to information and the protection of privacy by developing and proposing amendments to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Now, if we are looking for direction, we need look no further than the recently released 2015-2016 Annual Report by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the upcoming year will be the 20th anniversary of our act coming into force in the Northwest Territories, and as the Commissioner has suggested, the best way to celebrate this landmark will be a new and updated act. Most Canadian jurisdictions are ahead of the ball game on this, and particular praise goes to Newfoundland and Labrador's act which came into effect in 2015.

It is being hailed as one of the most innovative and progressive pieces of access and privacy legislation, not only in this country, but across the globe. The act narrows exceptions while shortening timelines, and also provides more powers to the provincial Ombudsman.

Using this example, along with this government's commitment to updating our own act and developing an NWT Office of the Ombudsman, we have a real opportunity to create perhaps the most transparent access to information and protection of privacy regime in the world.

This Assembly and its government has made great steps in transparency so far in this term, such as our nomination period for the premiership, recorded votes on legislation and appropriation bills which keeps Members of this House accountable to its constituents and literally makes us stand up for what we believe in. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable Members. Cabinet's open houses have also given citizens the opportunity to speak directly on issues that matter to them and should matter to this government. Most importantly, we

have put into place a mid-term review that will demonstrate our commitment to the principles of open government and accountability to which we all strive.

Though it won't be easy, and I'm sure there will be bumps along the way, we must continue to endeavour down the path of open government. Most Members of this House are not veteran politicians, and were elected on a change mandate, and at least in the areas of transparency and public engagement we are accomplishing the real change we have all committed to in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INDIGENOUS GUARDIAN PROGRAMS

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about Indigenous Guardian Programs, an innovative model for strengthening communities and caring for the land and water we all depend upon. Indigenous guardians are the "eyes and ears" on the ground for Indigenous communities and effective partners with public governments.

Working with the youth and with advice and direction from the elders, the guardians monitor wildlife, collect wildlife, water, sediment and soil samples to measure against baseline data while managing their territories and sacred places. They engage with industry and government partners and they provide training for youth, giving Aboriginal Youth an opportunity to re-connect with their elders and land that creates a sense of purpose and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we already see the positive results in the NWT. New research conducted by Social Ventures Australia, commissioned by the Dehcho First Nations and Lutsel K'e Dene First Nations, shows that guardian programs in the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nations and Dehcho First Nations generate major social and economic benefits:

- They improve public health, reduce dependency, strengthen environmental management capacity and for every one dollar invested, the programs save two and a half dollars in social spending.
- They also expand local economies. In Lutselk'e, the Ni Hat'ni Dene guardian program is already supporting and managing tourism activity around Thaidene Nene. This has a big impact in remote communities in which most employment rates in small communities is below 50 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, when local economies and communities thrive the entire NWT benefits. Indeed, guardian programs can help the GNWT meet many of its mandates, from generating good-paying jobs to monitoring the Mackenzie watershed to implementing its sustainable economy plan and reaching at-risk Aboriginal youth.

Mr. Speaker, Social Ventures Australia did similar research for the Australian Governments PMOs on their National Aboriginal Stewardship Program. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Member's statement today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The results of both research projects demonstrate real return on investment of a ratio of 2.5 return for every dollar invested. There is value here for the NWT and Canada, Mr. Speaker, and I will be asking the Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources questions relating to this matter. Marci Cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ANTI-POVERTY CAMPAIGN

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House here today to talk about the Anti-Poverty campaign here. In March of 2016 I had the opportunity to attend my first and the Third NWT Anti-Poverty Roundtable, "Building on our success". The roundtable theme focused on children, family support, healthy living, reaching our potential, safe and affordable housing, sustainable communities and integrated continuum of services.

The Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan was structured to build on successes and set priorities for the upcoming year and I am looking forward to the next one that is scheduled at the end of this month in Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased our Territorial Government is taking actions in reducing poverty in our remote communities, and I see the high need for this Anti-Poverty Campaign Conference in my Sahtu region. Therefore, later I will have questions to the appropriate Minister on supporting the invitation of holding that conference in the Sahtu region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS AFTER A YEAR

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'm going to reflect on this year since I was

elected to represent the residents of Yellowknife Centre and, indeed, the whole Northwest Territories. I want to talk about yesterday as both the best of times as an MLA and among the worst.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by referencing the mandate of the 18th Assembly. It is both our statement of principles and our work plan for our time here. It requires us to take action on the crisis of family and community violence. It also directs us to make strategic investments in transportation infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the 26 priorities were not assigned a weight and it's clear that this government values some more than others. Mr. Speaker, 10 of us on this side of the House spoke passionately about the A New Day Program yesterday, a one-of-a-kind program in the NWT that provides healing for men who use violence and additional safety for women and children. We requested an additional year of funding while an evaluation of it is completed at a cost of \$325,000.

Upstairs, just a few minutes later, Regular MLAs heard the government's pitch on building a 97-kilometre road to Whati. The road is in environmental assessment and there's work going on to come up with money for construction. The last public figure on the cost of this road is \$150 million.

Mr. Speaker, about the same number of people live in Whati as the number who have used the New Day Program, that's roughly 350 people. Yesterday we learned the government has decided to interpret the mandate to make the road to Whati a high-priority while remaining non-committal about funding a systemic solution to family violence, specifically the New Day Program. Perhaps what galls me above all is that no matter how many times we, as Regular Members, tell the executive to back off on its \$150 million reductions target, our direction is ignored and generating cash for roads relentlessly wins out.

Mr. Speaker, I am never going to be happy when the government decides to invest in roads rather than people. The cost benefit study indicates some economic benefits if a mine ever goes ahead, almost no economic worth if it doesn't. Investment in the New Day Program may change not only the life of a single man but the life of his family scarred by the trauma of colonization and residential schools. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I have spent much of this year advocating for people who live on the margins of our society: women and children, those who don't

have adequate housing and those who live on low-income, those who've experienced violence and those with disabilities. It's a sometimes exhilarating and sometimes frustrating experience to pursue these issues in this House, but I'm committed to these people and this work with even greater passion than when I was elected a year ago. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY ON WATER LICENCES

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources now has the authority to sign off water licences following devolution. When I raised issues around how this new authority is being exercised, the Minister tabled a response in this House on October 27th. The Minister said "when rendering a decision on a water licence, it is the responsibility of the Minister to ensure the quasi-judicial process administered by the board has been conducted in a fair and transparent manner. To this end, procedural fairness is a primary consideration."

This raises a number of significant public policy and legal issues. One of the first times the Minister exercised this discretion over procedural fairness it was done in favour of a mining company that had submitted additional information after the close of a public hearing, which, in itself, was procedurally unfair.

Do we not trust our land and water boards to set up and run procedurally fair processes? This is exactly what they have done in designing a made-in-the-North approach with clear rules of procedure, collaborative work plans developed with all interested parties, an open public registry, and detailed reasons for decision.

I'm not a lawyer, but, when I went through the Waters Act, there was no specific direction or requirement in there for the Minister to ensure procedural fairness. Section 56 does provide for an appeal of any decision or order of the board on a question of law or questions of jurisdiction. Where should that appeal go? The law says it goes to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, not to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. This is the normal practice for questions around procedural fairness. The courts are the experts and final arbiters when it comes to procedural fairness.

If the Minister exercises any discretion in signing a water licence, it should be to make sure that Section 26 of the Waters Act has been complied with. This section sets out a number of

requirements for a board issuing a licence, that compensation claims have been dealt with, that an applicant is financially responsible, and that water quality standards will be met.

There are a number of contaminated sites around the Northwest Territories with very significant public liabilities, many of which have been raised in this House. I was surprised that the Minister would not make this issue of financial responsibility of licence applicants this government's primary consideration in signing off water licences. I will have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PROPOSED YOUTH WELLNESS CAMP NEAR
NAHANNI BUTTE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past spring I had the opportunity to speak with Chief Peter Marcellais and a number of councillors and band managers about building a youth wellness camp near the community of Nahanni Butte and the proposed Canadian Zinc mine. The community was very excited about the potential of building a youth camp, not only for their youth but for the youth of the whole region.

The community looked at going through the Government of the Northwest Territories to build this camp. The community felt, going to the government, it would take years before the camp was a reality, so the band looked for a new way and that began by negotiating with Canadian Zinc to access funding and building expertise to build this site.

Today I'm proud to say that Canadian Zinc and Nahanni Butte's First Nation are working hard to come up with a positive process and are close to finalizing their negotiations. In the Deh Cho Drum, Chief Marcellais was quoted, "The band is very happy with how the negotiation for funding has proceeded."

Mr. Speaker, the band has taken a different approach to their traditional territory. They want to be proactive, so they took the co-management approach to doing things. The agreement came after the band decided to take a lead role in the heritage study, road survey, and wildlife monitoring for the proposed all-season road leading to the potential mine. Mr. Speaker, it's about two organizations working together for the betterment of the residents of Nahanni Butte.

According to Chief Marcellais, working together on a framework for co-managing this important

economic develop project is important and a good process to follow. Mr. Speaker, the band continues to look for employment in a way that does not look for a handout by the GNWT but a way the council and the residents of Nahanni Butte can help and protects their traditional territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
BEAUFORT DELTA LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION
POLICY

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, education has been a large focus of our work in the House over the past two weeks, and we've also talked a fair bit about the importance of choice for parents and for students. I'll be continuing on this theme today.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents in my riding have come to me with concerns about policies affecting their children, their children's ability to learn and to choose the course of their own education. The Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council's policy says that, when a child enrolls in a language class, for example, to learn Gwich'in or Inuvialuktun, that the child is required to register in one or the other, based on whether they are registered as Gwich'in or Inuvialuit.

In my riding, residents have varied backgrounds. In Aklavik, for example, the community is roughly half Gwich'in and half Inuvialuit. Parents in the community feel that the choice to register their children in one language class or another should be their decision, not decided based on council policy. In southern communities, language instruction often responds to parent and student choice. Students can choose to enrol in French, Spanish, or in another language class, where that's available. Mr. Speaker, let's not forget that parents, grandparents, and family are a child's first teachers. Their wisdom and guidance can't be counted out. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can work together to find a solution that pleases all parties and extends more than one option to parents and students in the Beaufort Delta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
REMEMBRANCE DAY

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As is symbolized by the poppies we all wear in this House, I rise today to call attention to next week's national day recognizing Canadians and others who have devoted their lives in service of our freedom. Next Friday, Mr. Speaker, is Remembrance Day. We, in this House, sit in a privileged place. We are here, members of a democratic institution representing electors who have a franchise to vote according to their beliefs and their conscience. We practice a form of public government, consensus government. This is only practiced in northern Canada. We can do so because we and generations of our predecessors before us have worked to bring it about.

We have developed this system and will continue to improve and perfect it as the truest, most authentic expression of the character and will of our communities and society which we can achieve. We do all this as citizens of Canada, one of the best countries in the world.

So many flaws, disputes, and challenges occupy so much of our daily national consciousness that it's easy to forget that we enjoy the freedom of a democratic system of public government. Indeed, we live under one of the most free and expressive systems of government that humankind has ever in its wisdom developed.

We only do so because we have freedom, Mr. Speaker, and we must never forget that it was built on the courage and sacrifices of men and women who served this country and fought for those ideals.

We achieved that freedom over generations because of the sacrifices of men and women in service, and we keep that freedom today because selfless people continue to serve, to place themselves at risk, to do their work of the nation, to preserve the quality of life that we hold so dear.

So, next Friday, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we take the opportunity to pay our respects. We should honour the men and women who serve Canada, the many who have served in the past, whose selfless sacrifices make it possible for us to be here today, and those who work now, showing the face of Canadian freedom and democracy, the pride of who Canadians are as a people and a nation to the world, lest we forget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH IMPROVED
IMMIGRATION OUTCOMES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March of this year, the federal government announced an increase to Canada's immigration targets, up to 300,000 people, with an emphasis on family reunification and refugee and humanitarian cases but also with a new and express going of boosting entries in the "economic class."

That means that Canada will welcome 12,000 or more skilled workers, business people, or caregivers in the coming year. Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure that this influx benefits our territory.

The GNWT has set its own immigration target: an increase of 25 per cent in the number of applications to the NWT Nominee Program each year for the next five years. If you ask anyone who runs a business, they'll tell you there is a shortage of skilled labour in the NWT, and the statistics back it up. The long-term forecast isn't favourable, either. With the skills gap and many workers approaching retirement, the most recent labour market information suggests that 33 per cent of territorial job openings over the next 15 years will require a skill certification or college diploma, not to mention the projected need for university and management-level expertise. The new federal immigration economic class presents an opportunity for the NWT to address this labour shortage.

While there are more than enough jobs for everyone, our population doesn't have the skills to fill many of those jobs. Those who do, often work in the mines or for government. This means that small businesses, which simply can't afford to match the salaries of either, are the ones who bear the brunt of the labour shortage.

If we want to diversify our local economies, we need to ensure that small businesses have access to the skilled labour they need to grow. Mr. Speaker, we have to remember that small businesses in the Territory have the capacity to become international corporations: Igloo Building Supplies and Northern Arc cranes both started just down the street from where I live in Hay River.

Entrepreneurs are doing their part to try and grow our economy and we need to do a better job supporting their efforts. To achieve real outcomes, the departments of ECE and ITI must coordinate their efforts and take decisive action to improve our immigration outcomes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, of all the horrific acts humans commit, there is none more grievous than war, though of all the acts of valor people commit, there is none greater than serving in a time of a war. It is with this contradiction in mind that I speak before this House on the subject of Remembrance Day.

Throughout our history, men and women of all races, creeds and ages have served in some form or another with great distinction in countless military engagements. Some storming the fields of Passchendaele, Juno and Zabul, while others tended to the home front assuring those who fought would come back to conditions where they could live in peace.

No words can do justice to the sacrifices committed by so few, but owed by so many, though what we do on November 11th is a recommitment to the continued acknowledgement of those hallowed sacrifices. That we state as one people that we will never forget what was given in order to assure that all of us here have the opportunity of existing in a free society.

Mr. Speaker, my own father, George Stanley Cochrane, as well as other members of my lineage, served throughout the Second World War, and most fortunately, all returned alive. That is not to say though that they came back unscathed. When thinking of my father's service, silence is the word that comes to mind, for he would never voluntarily broach the subject for reasons I can only assume originate from a sense of great pain and even greater loss.

The term, post-traumatic stress, had not yet entered our vocabulary and he and his generation found other ways to cope with the horrors of the battlefields. My father was a warrior all his life; he fought on the battlefield, he fought his demons off the battlefield, and he fought to make the Canada we know today. I loved my father, and admired his strength.

A strength shared by all those who willingly put their lives on the line for duty and honour. On November 11th, I will honour all soldiers, medics and civilians who now only live on in memory, those today who are trying to return to normalcy, and those who are still fighting to return home, Mr. Speaker, lest we forget.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the following pages from my riding: Nichole Blackduck is here with us and also Kobe Apples is in the back there, and they are from Jean Wetrade Gameti School. In addition, all those pages that have served us greatly in this House, for that, I would just like to say masi to all the pages as well.

Now I would like to draw to your attention to the public in the gallery, I am pleased to recognize the pages' chaperone, Rollden Eyakwo, here with us. This also happens to be Rollden's birthday, so happy birthday. Thanks for joining us. Masi.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Range Lake.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my brother, Stan Cochrane, and his wife, Karen Cochrane, who have joined me today to honour my father and the veterans of wars. There are also constituents of the Range Lake riding and local businesses involved in the mineral exploration field. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Stan and Karen Cochrane for different reasons. My constituency assistant, Mr. Garrett Cochrane, is Stan and Karen's son. I couldn't do my job without him. So thank you very much for providing me with a great deal of resources. Thanks for being here today.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize my constituency assistant Ora Mercredi, and also Mr. Stan Cochrane, who we worked together on the Darnley Bay project which I just mentioned earlier. So welcome to Stan. It is good to see you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery, welcome to our proceedings. It is always great to have an audience. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Member for Deh Cho.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 15-18(2):
SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF XAVIER AND
MARIE BONNETROUGE

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend best wishes to Xavier Bonnetrouge and Marie Bonnetrouge who celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. They were married in Fort Providence, August 27, 1956. Louie Bonnetrouge and Rosa Bonnetrouge were witnesses at their wedding. Xavier and Marie have 11 children, 33 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 450-18(2):
NORTHERN POLYTECHNIC PROPOSAL

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke about the importance of building a knowledge economy in the North and the idea of transforming Aurora College into a polytechnic. I know that the Minister is engaged in a strategic review process working with the Aurora College leadership. I am interested to know when honourable Members, here in this House, will be able to see that strategic plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct; we were just awarded the contract for the work to be done. We are going to be engaging a lot of our stakeholders. It is a key priority of our department to make sure that we are working very well with Aurora College to develop the strategic plan. We are going to reach out to community governments, Aboriginal governments, GNWT departments, staff, students, as well as Members. As this has just started up, once we get a timeline and schedule, we will share that with the Members and get their feedback and input into this action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: The Minister just indicated a list of stakeholders and those sound like a good start. There are a number of examples of community colleges or smaller colleges that have evolved into polytechnics or university colleges. We are seeing that process happening in our neighbouring territory, the Yukon. Will the stakeholder consultation also involve speaking to those experts and seeing how they were able to transform their

post-secondary vocational institutes into formal polytechnics and university colleges?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We always look to see what are the best practices throughout other jurisdictions; however, we just released a labour market information report and the Skills 4 Success Strategic Framework and Action Plan which is going to help guide this strategic plan moving forward with the Aurora College in developing their programs. We should have something in place after all the consultations and engagements are done. We also want to utilize more of our learning centres. We have 23 learning centres in the community that we want to utilize a lot better to get the training, the skill developments and help some of our employers with the in-demand jobs and the needs that they need.

So we're going to look at what's being done, but we really want to have it guided by the Skills 4 Success Action Plan as well as the labour market in-demand jobs and needs assessment that were released earlier this year to help our communities and our business get northern employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: I appreciate the Minister's answer, and that's exactly why we need to do more with Aurora College. We have a real labour market shortage and a shortage in education; however, I think Aurora College now is focused on a wide variety of issues. Recently, the government moved it from education to labour market development, and we've seen in the recent capital budget a new heavy operator training facility. So we are making some decisions about the future of Aurora College.

I guess my question then, Mr. Speaker, is: are we going to continue to make these decisions as they meet our needs and as opportunities are available or are we going to wait until that strategic plan is completed before proceeding any further with redeveloping Aurora College?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: That's exactly why we're going out doing the consulting and engaging with all our stakeholders. We do have three campuses throughout the NWT that meets specific needs for different communities, different groups. We want to make evidence-based decisions and we're going to wait until that report is done, it should be ready, as I said, June of 2017, and be ready for implementation in the 2017-2018 academic year.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister for providing some clear timelines. My last question is going to be a difficult one to answer because it's about capital, and

Aurora College currently does not have a Yellowknife campus. One of the components of Aurora College is the Aurora Research Institute, and currently they have office space, they do not have laboratory equipment, they do not have research equipment at all.

Clearly, there are some necessary upgrades if we're going to expand our research capacity and expand training and education opportunities for Aurora College. That building is also riddled with maintenance issues, glycol leaks, it's a real mess.

So in this strategic plan is the door open for a new campus facility, a standalone design-built campus facility in Yellowknife? Yes, I know we have limited resources, but this is a priority for our job market shortage. So is the door open to a new campus facility in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Once the strategic plan is done and ready for review, we'll see what kind of space is needed for the program services that are going to be offered in the next academic year. But we can't make those decisions until we see that strategic plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 451-18(2):
A NEW DAY MEN'S HEALING PROGRAM

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard in this House from the Minister of Justice that A New Day Program had 31 candidates, but when we met with the coordinators they informed us they had over 358 men and women take part in this program at the end of September. This is a huge difference in numbers. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain why there's a huge difference in these numbers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday, this program is being reviewed. There may have been people that were informed about the program, perhaps that's how they got to that 300 number. I do know, however, that only 31 entered the program and only 16 graduated. So there may have been other types of contacts, but as far as people actually in the program and completing the program, there were very few. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. There's a huge difference in numbers. So I'm going to ask this question. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that monthly reports were provided to the department. Mr. Speaker, were these reports

given to the evaluators and are they part of the evaluation process, and are they using those numbers instead of the 31?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, of course I've not yet received the report, but I understand that the report is a comprehensive one. I'm sure they looked at a wide variety of information, I don't know exactly what information they looked at, but I'm almost certain they looked at a wide variety of information. I do not know if they specifically looked at the monthly reports, but their information provided to us, so far, is that there were only 31 clients and only 16 graduates.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess we're going to have to agree to disagree on the numbers here. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House if the pilot project did have an evaluation component in the contribution agreement and, if it did, was this evaluation component used in the evaluation process?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I'm not certain as to whether such an evaluation was in the initial terms of reference, but all pilot projects virtually, the very nature of a pilot project is that it is to be evaluated, and that type of evaluation is being done at this time.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answer. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said this is a three-year project. However, there was a nine-month gap in the service between the Healing Drum and the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre. It is my understanding that the program has been running only for 22 consecutive months at the Tree of Peace. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please advise this House, does the nine months with the other organization count as part of this three-year pilot project and evaluation process?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, this pilot program has been running since 2012, and we do appreciate there was a gap in the service provider. I'm sure the final report, which we are eagerly anticipating, will take that into account in their evaluation of the program.

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

QUESTION 452-18(2):
ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH IMPROVED
IMMIGRATION OUTCOMES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and

Employment in relation to my statement about immigration. The immigration program is jointly run between ITI and ECE. There's a lot of overlap between departments; Education Culture and Employment obviously has employment and ITI has business development. What sort of coordination is happening between the two departments on this front, and has the department considered merging the immigration unit into perhaps one department to streamline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department is the lead on the Nominee Program, though responsibility is shared with the Department of ITI. Under the Nominee Program ECE administers the employer-driven program which is comprised of three streams: critical impact workers; skilled workers; and, the NWT express entry. Right now, we're working with the Department of ITI to develop an immigration framework and action plan, and once that is in place that information will be shared with Members moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: We always talk about diversifying our economy. Other jurisdictions, like Manitoba, have welcomed farmers and agricultural workers to their province to fill the gaps they have. What is the department doing to align our current economic diversification strategies, like with agricultural, with tourism, hospitality, the fisheries? What are they doing specifically to attract immigrants who can fill those gaps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I've been in the position, I've been to a couple of FTP meetings where the concerns were brought forward of having skilled workers meeting the in-demand jobs, particularly for each jurisdiction. The Northwest Territories is no different, so, when we're looking at our nominee program, we want to make sure that we're bringing people in to meet the needs of the business community when they can't find workers locally or even nationally; that, if we do bring in immigrants to fill these gaps in the jobs, that they are actually skilled workforce to meet those in-demand jobs.

It's a concern right across the country, and we're no different in the North, but, once we do the nominee program, we want to make sure that we're getting people coming in that are going to be able to meet those in-demand jobs needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: Earlier, the Minister, in a different set of questions, talked about Aurora College waiting to make any changes, basing that on Skills 4 Success, and he just mentioned the immigration

framework, as well. Is that also going to be based on Skills 4 Success? Is this all going to be integrated, and when can we expect this immigration framework?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, we're just in the preliminary stages working with the Department of ITI to develop that framework, which will lead into an action plan. We're also out doing promotion and awareness of our nominee program in the regions. We've just launched a website on October 13th, I believe, and it's got a lot of really good information and testimonials on there.

I encourage all Members to take a look at that website and share it with businesses and share it with your communities that are finding it hard to fill in-demand jobs. But all these programs are going to be working together to help meet the needs of our employers as well as increase the population of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for all his answers. So we've talked about what we're doing in the territory. What is the government doing to reach out to potential immigrants? What sort of advertising, I guess, what sort of outreach, is there?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we do have that website that we launched. I know that all departments are working to get this out internationally. We just had some very good success in getting some businesses from out of the country come up to the Northwest Territories and start-up businesses here, in Yellowknife, as well.

We're constantly promoting the program, working with businesses to help set up start-up businesses here in the Northwest Territories, and we want to continue that strong relationship with anybody who wants to take on the program as well as our local businesses in the Northwest Territories, to help them fill the job gaps that we see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 453-18(2):
MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY ON WATER
LICENCES

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Earlier today, I spoke of how the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources sees his new authority over water licences as one of determining procedural fairness. The implication is that perhaps

we don't believe the land and water boards have procedurally fair processes already. Does the Minister believe that the land and water boards have procedurally fair processes for water licences, and what changes would he like to see? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the land and water board has their process, and they review items brought before them, and then they are brought over to ENR for a decision by the Minister. So, whatever process they use, if they believe it's a fair process then they operate under that process as we operate under ours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I thank the Minister for that response; I'm not sure it really deals with the issue. When would the Minister refer matters of procedural fairness to the courts or take it upon himself to make a determination?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we take our responsibility for the water licences direction very seriously, and, if there's an issue that's brought before us, we like to ensure that all parties have a say in the issues that are brought before us. If we feel that some procedural fairness was not met, then we may refer that back to the water board.

MR. O'REILLY: Again, thanks to the Minister for his response. Does the Minister recognize that questions of law about a water licence issued by a board, including procedural fairness, are best dealt with through the appeal processes set out in the Waters Act; that is, an appeal to the court rather than trying to have the Minister sort out these matters?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not a lawyer, but I do understand a bit how this works and I'm starting to understand it a bit more. My understanding is that if any of the parties feel that procedural fairness was not met, they could possibly go through the court system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister for his response. That's exactly what I'm getting at, rather than put himself in the position of trying to deal with procedural fairness, get the courts to do it. That's where the applicants should go.

Earlier today, I spoke of how land and water boards are required to deal with compensation claims; compliance with water standards, although we don't

have any after 45 years; and financial responsibility of applicants.

Why does the Minister not use these criteria when reviewing water licences for his signature, especially given our terrible track record of contaminated sites and public liabilities? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, that track record may have been in the past, way in the past, and we're starting to move ahead. Through devolution, we think we've got a lot of the necessary tools to put ourselves in a position to move ahead and be responsible for the environmental protection and going through all the processes. So there may have been mistakes made in the past, I can't speak to those, but we can definitely learn from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 452-18(2):
ANTI-POVERTY CAMPAIGN

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I had mentioned my questions would be related to the anti-poverty initiative here and the campaign. This program, I'm very intrigued with it here on my attendance seven months ago in March, there. It's a consolidation of various initiatives to address anti-poverty.

With the consolidation of these various programs underneath three different departments into one room, that, to me, is a very proactive role. My question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is if he can confirm there is support in the future to have and hold a conference similar to that which is going on in Inuvik and here this past March in the Sahtu region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention at this point is to have an annual conference on the anti-poverty work that's being done across the Northwest Territories. This is actually a great opportunity for people from across communities who are undertaking community and region-based activities to come together and learn from each other and share best practices. What's working in one community can be done in another community. So it's a wonderful opportunity to come and keep the conversation alive and keep it current and mould and change as needed, based on new information.

This year, we are having our anti-poverty conference. It's going to be in Inuvik. We are

planning to have ones for the remainder of this fiscal year. Today, I'll make a commitment to the Member that in 2017, when we have the anti-poverty conference -- it'll probably be at this time of year, similar to the one that's happening this year -- we'll have it in Norman Wells, and in 2018, what the heck, let's have it in Hay River, and in 2019 how about Fort Simpson. That's what we'll do, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wonderful words for our second last day in action in front of the media here, something to take home for Christmas. I look forward to the upcoming schedule of the proposition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I'll take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

QUESTION 455-18(2):
INDIGENOUS NATURAL RESOURCE GUARDIAN
PROGRAMS

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci Cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Researchers with Social Ventures Australia, a firm that has assessed a federally funded Aboriginal Stewardship Program in Australia for the Prime Minister and Cabinet just released a case study of Indigenous Guardian Programs run by Lutsel K'e and Dehcho First Nations. I'd like to ask the Minister if he's aware of the findings in that report. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of these programs and we're actually proud of the fact that in the Northwest Territories we do have a couple of Indigenous Guardianship Programs. The Ni Hat'ni Dene or Watchers of Land and the Deh Cho KOD which means taking care of Dehcho, and we've seen how these programs actually benefit the community, they generate some good-paying jobs, they prepare young people to be our next generation leaders, but the guardianship program, my understanding, do even more because they are guardians of the land monitoring wildlife, tracking changes to watershed and other aspects of the environment.

They can help the GNWT meet our mandate for conserving biodiversity and responding to climate change and enhance our collective capacity for environmental monitoring and management. So it's wise of us to work with these groups and continue to seek their advice because who knows the land better than the people that use it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, research confirms that Indigenous guardians helps strengthen the community self-determination. How does the Minister see that benefitting the rest of NWT if a program was to be expanded?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I see a great benefit to the work of the NWT because it aligns with many of our current GNWT strategies and initiatives, examples like the Water Strategy Conservation Areas Networking Planning, Anti-Poverty Strategy and Culture and Heritage Strategy amongst others. We think that the guardian programs can play a critical role in the stewardship and strengthening the government-to-government relationships.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I indicated the return on investment for this program. The report indicates a return in investment. I use the number 2.5 times return and the potential return would be 3.7, so that's quite substantial. Considering these enormous returns, how does the Minister feel about the government supporting this program moving forward?

MR. SPEAKER: Member is asking for Minister's opinion. I'll allow the Minister to respond.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I always have an opinion. We will continue to work with these groups to see if there's resources that might be made available to them. ENR staff actually attended the National Indigenous Guardianship Program in Ottawa in early October and the purpose of the gathering was to highlight the knowledge of the Indigenous Guardian Approach to the protection and management of lands and waters and as with most of our trips to Ottawa, there was some discussion on funding. I'm not sure the nature of those discussions or the outcome of those discussions yet, but as we continue to move on with this initiative I will be happy to share the findings with the Member.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, leaders from across our country are calling for the federal government to fund the National Network for Indigenous Guardians. Similar to the program that's been running for the last 10 years in Australia. Does the Minister support that proposal?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I spoke before about the success that we've had with the couple of programs that are operating in the NWT and also the success of the program that's operating in Australia, and we support the idea of bringing Indigenous Guardianship Programs to more communities across the NWT. Again, if it's a question of funding then we will work with our federal counterparts because we can see some

benefit to the rest of the country if we have these particular types of programs across the country.

So I will make that commitment that we will work with our federal counterparts and through our own government if there is potential room for investments in these types of initiatives, we will be happy to have a look at it.

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

QUESTION 456-18(2):
BEAUFORT DELTA LANGUAGES INSTRUCTION
POLICY

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a follow-up to my Member's statement. I have a few questions for the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's statement, parents feel the need to -- you know, the decision should be theirs to put their child in any language program that they'd like them to learn. I'd like to ask the Minister how has the department directed education councils and school boards on access to language classes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the concern from the Member. I know in communities like Inuvik and Aklavik where we have two different Aboriginal groups such as Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, putting your child in a language class is very important. It helps preserve culture languages as I spoke earlier in my Minister's statement; however, at Moose Kerr School I know that the staff work really hard to maintain, protect and revitalize both Inuvialuit and Gwich'in languages.

With the Moose Kerr School, about 10 years ago they went by the healthcare card, what was on the healthcare card, then your student went into either Inuvialuit or Gwich'in. They changed it up a few years ago where the parents decide, and then I just found out that recently this year, 2016-2017 academic year, they went back to the healthcare card system. That's to make sure there's a good balance of students going to both the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in classes. So right now they're using the health card system to choose how the student takes his class. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to ask the Minister what options are available to parents and children who would like to enroll in a different language class?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: It was actually up to the parents choosing up until this fiscal year, but moving forward I'd ask the Member if we have families that are concerned in Aklavik to go and speak to the teacher. If it's not resolved with the teacher, to speak with the principal and the last resort is bring it to the superintendent, but we will speak with the Beaufort Delta Education Council about this as it is a concern and we do have two communities, Aklavik and Inuvik, that can run into that issue in years to come.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, my constituents have gone to the school and to the local DEA, and they were told that this is a BDEC policy. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, how will the department work to address parents' concerns, as I've outlined here today?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, the department will follow-up with the Beaufort Delta Education Council, as this has been a concern and it's not the first time that we've had a family from the Member's community that brought this concern forward. Obviously, we want to revitalize our languages in Inuvialuit and Gwich'in, and keep it thriving in especially our smaller communities. So it is a concern and we'll have somebody from the department work with the Beaufort Delta Education Council to look at that policy.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, can the Minister ensure that this is straightened out by the mid-term of the school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As the Member said, the family member has already spoken with the teacher, so we will speak with the superintendent and try to get this addressed as soon as we can.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

QUESTION 457-18(2):
DARNLEY BAY RESOURCE POTENTIAL

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke about Darnley Bay, and my questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister is what geological information has the GNWT collected about mineral deposits in Darnley Bay anomaly area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No mineral deposits have been discovered in the anomaly area, but, as the Member knows, Darnley Bay Resources has reported diamond-bearing kimberlite pipes there on the Parry Peninsula just northwest of there. Unfortunately, as the Member stated in his statement today, the drilling at Darnley Bay has not been able to determine what the anomaly actually represents and it's, you know, supposedly a very significant one. Mineral resources, what is contained there, will not be known until we are able to drill the area. But to get back to his question, ITI's Northwest Territories Geological Survey Division has Mineral Industry Assets Reports for the Darnley Bay area dating back to 1972.

Another area of interest is that the Geological Survey of Canada and NWT Geological Survey have recently conducted research in the area through a federal government Geo-Mapping and Energy Minerals Program, which is a seven-year \$100 million program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the clarification. Mr. Speaker, my second question to the Minister is how is the department engaged in monitoring mineral resource development projects and staying up-to-date on activities of junior mining companies?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The Mineral Resource Division and the NWT Geological Survey both follow mineral development projects in the Northwest Territories and speak often with junior mining companies throughout the NWT. These divisions also monitor press releases by junior mining companies and compile a report. This report, though, is actually put out by the Mineral Exploration Overview and it's produced by the NWT Geological Survey. In addition, companies and prospectors regularly contact the staff at the Mining Recorder's Office, so we're in contact with junior mining companies in that manner.

Also, as early as this month, we're going to have the Yellowknife Geoscience Forum of the Northwest Territories, which I invite everyone to participate in in the House, it's on for three days from November 15th, and companies will regularly inform us on some of their updates and exploration programs.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I see the importance of the GNWT working with Aboriginal governments has moved toward mineral explorations and road building. Mr. Speaker, my third question for the Minister is what project readiness activities is the department undertaking during the current downturn in the economy so the Northwest Territories has a better capacity to take on new projects when commodity prices rise?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: We have the Mineral Development Strategy, which provides the GNWT with clear direction on a large number of programs and activities that benefit the NWT economy, and when commodity prices rebound we will be looking towards that. Within ITI, both the mineral incentive program and the exploration incentive program provides various forms of support to help these companies participate in the Northwest Territories and be active.

It's also critical that we encourage companies to continue their exploration efforts in the territory and provide them with the information they need. ITI is well-equipped in that through our client services and our community relations unit, and we'd also like to highlight the work conducted by the mineral resources division to encourage NWT regions to develop their own mineral strategies for their regions.

It's been encouraging to see that the regions are going to be moving forward in developing some of their own mineral resource strategies, and we look forward to that.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, my final question is Darnley Bay is also the site of a proposed marine protected area. How would developing minerals interests and their sensitive ecosystems be balanced in a way that satisfies traditional land users, but also modern society's demand for mineral resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As the Member knows, the Government of the Northwest Territories is very supportive of the marine conservation area along the east and north coast of the Parry Peninsula, and we continue to work on that. This marine protected area, once established, will have numerous regulations in place that are expected to provide the balance that the Member speaks of here today in the House. It's encouraging to know that the conservation goals of these regulations have been developing using traditional local knowledge, so that's very important.

The regulations also consider the economic needs of the region and, in particular, the residents of Paulatuk. Moving forward, if the balance between conservation and development is not being achieved, the management plan in the marine area is adaptive and can be modified to better meet the needs of traditional land users.

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

QUESTION 458-18(2):
HOME CARE SUPPORT WORKER VISITS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. At a recent constituency meeting, homecare services were the main topic of conversation, and devoted users of the service in Yellowknife reported to me that their homecare support worker visits had dropped from the past frequency of weekly to as infrequently as once every two or three weeks. This doesn't speak very well for the preservation of this service or the enhancement either. Can the Minister explain to me why these reductions in service are taking place? I'll start with that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, homecare services that are provided to individuals are based on clinical need or direction from a physician on the types of services that an individual will require. Conceivably, those can change over time. Without knowing the details of the individual case, I certainly can't answer why one individual might have a reduction in their services.

I would encourage the individual who has had the reduction to talk to their practitioner to see what can be done and whether or not the homecare that's provided is meeting the clinical needs of the patient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that answer. It was more than one person, and the frequency seems to be decreasing. All these particular constituents of course are aging. So I'm wondering if this drying up of services is a permanent situation or is it simply a matter of staffing?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, we have made no financial reductions in the area of homecare in the Government of the Northwest Territories. It's conceivable that we do have some staffing changes from time to time that may have a temporary impact. But I come back to my original statement, at the end of the day the homecare that's provided to an individual is based on clinical needs, those clinical needs can change. I would encourage the patients to deal with their practitioners to ensure that they're getting the level of support they need to ensure that they're meeting their clinical needs.

Mr. Speaker, we are also working on the continuing care review that's going to help us identify where our resource is being spent, is it being spent appropriately, are we getting maximum bang for our

buck, and do we need to look at additional resources over the long-term recognizing that we do have an aging population? But I do encourage the Member to have her constituents talk to the practitioners to see why their level of care has changed. It may be a clinical requirement or a clinical need that's being met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I'm glad the Minister referenced the work on the continuing care plan. My understanding from the responses that were given to my colleague, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wilideh, yesterday is that the plan will not be available until the end of the current fiscal year, and so I'm wondering, then, when funding would come into place to put that plan into operation because, if it's not in the current business plans, then the wait could be up to 18 months.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, when spending public funds, it's important that we make sure that we're spending funds effectively, getting bang for buck, that we're getting maximum benefit for every penny that we spend. We need to look at how we're spending the dollars today. We need to make sure that we're spending them appropriately. If possible, we need to re-profile our funds within the existing home care services to make sure that we are getting those benefits.

I can't say when we would be asking for additional funds because I don't know what degree or amount of funds are needed at this point. The normal process would be we will have something done here at the end of the fiscal year, as I've committed and promised; we'll have an opportunity to have discussions with Members through the next business planning process; and, if money is required, hopefully, we can build it into the mains for the following fiscal year.

Urgency sometimes expedites those processes. There are steps and opportunity, but we're unprepared to make some decisions on that until we have the data and the information we need to help everybody in this building make evidence-based decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say I'm aware about evidence-based decisions. The evidence at this point shows that our population is aging and the need for home care is just getting greater and greater, so I just can't get my head around the idea that there could be a delay of 18 months in finding new or re-profiling existing funding to meet the needs of people who want to age in place. I guess

I'm looking for the Minister to make a commitment that there will in fact be a response to this plan by attaching money to it sooner than 18 months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I mean, I've said it once, I'll say it again: until we do the analysis, we won't know if we are spending our money wisely and effectively. We might actually be able to get significant benefits for our residents with the existing money if we change the way that we're doing business. I think this is practical and responsible. The Member is absolutely correct, we have an aging population here in the Northwest Territories, and there are some more demands. Does it require more money? Does it require us to change the way that we're providing home care services and re-profiling money from other areas to help us enhance what we're doing in home care?

Mr. Speaker, we need the data. We need the information. I will absolutely commit to sharing that with Members. If there's an opportunity to expedite, we're certainly looking at that, but we need the data. I need to share it with Members. We need to have a discussion on how we want to move forward together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 459-18(2):
SENIOR HOME HEATING SUBSIDY

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, my colleague was asking questions of the Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment, and the Minister talked about 513 seniors accessing the seniors' heating subsidy. Can the Minister explain if this number has gone up or has it decreased from last year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's roughly about just over 500 every year. The more information and more awareness that we get out there to seniors in our communities, we can expect to see possibly numbers rising. As I also mentioned, we're doing a review of the Senior Home Heating Subsidy, and we're looking at thresholds, we're looking at zones, we're also looking at fuel allocations. When that review is done, there's potential that we might even see even more seniors who can actually access that program, so it's a benefit to our seniors' population throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. It's great to hear that we're helping our seniors and we're looking at that. The Minister talked about this review going on, and he's made that commitment to committee and they're working on it. Does he have a timeline when this review will actually be done and we can be looking at this review?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We should have something early on in the New Year. If anything, by the end of this fiscal year, we should have something ready to present to committee and share with all members of the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that answer and look forward to that report. So what happens when the seniors are not eligible for that? Is there a process that the Minister can explain to this House? What happens if the seniors are not eligible for this support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have many programs within our department. Seniors could also get assessed under the Income Assistance Program, where they might be eligible for a full tank of fuel twice a year or a cord of wood twice a year. Those options are available for the seniors that might not qualify. But, if any seniors don't qualify, I also encourage them to do a reassessment to make sure that they're assessed properly and that they might actually make the needs. If they don't make the requirements under the Senior Home Heating Subsidy, then they can also apply under the Income Assistance Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that answer. It's good to hear that we're able to try to find avenues to help our seniors. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please advise this House what happens if the seniors run out of fuel or wood subsidies when they're looking at during the middle of the winter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We work it on a case-by-case basis, Mr. Speaker, and we try to inform our seniors to try to lengthen out their fuel subsidies throughout the winter months. But, because some of the concerns that were brought up at the end of last winter with some of our seniors that were running out of fuel for their homes under this program, that's why we're doing the review and we're going to be looking at threshold levels, we're going to be looking at the zones. Hopefully, it'll address that need so that seniors won't run out of

fuel during the winter months. As I said, we should have that review ready by the end of this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 460-18(2):
FORT RESOLUTION MEDICAL REFERRALS

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. With the new health transformation right now, four communities that I represent all go through the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. However, Fort Resolution is in close proximity to Hay River. Right now, people have to go from Fort Resolution to Hay River, get on a plane early in the morning, come here for appointments, possibly overnight and then back to Fort Resolution.

I'm wondering if the Minister could tell me what the procedure would be to switch the appointments of people and have the doctors come to Hay River and the people from Fort Resolution just go to Hay River for their doctor's appointments. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we finalize all the details needed to move forward incorporating all the different components of the health system into one authority as part of health transformation, residents will be able to go anywhere in the Northwest Territories that they choose to go for health services. So, if we have residents in Fort Resolution who wish to see a doctor in Hay River, there's nothing stopping them from doing that.

We do encourage people to go to their local provider first. For example, somebody in Fort Resolution, if they're looking for health services, should obviously go to their Fort Resolution health centre. If they're referred out, they could be referred to a large number of places, depending on what it is that they're trying to get. If it's MRI, we're going to refer them to Edmonton. If it's a specialty physician they're going to likely go to Yellowknife; unless it happens to be one of the specialty services that is not provided in the Northwest Territories, at which point they would be referred to Edmonton. If they're looking to see a GP, there's no reason why we couldn't refer them to Hay River.

We do need to make sure that those memorandums of understanding and agreement between the territorial authority and Hay River, which we are working on; Hay River is participating and working with us to develop those

memorandums of understanding. I will find out where we are with respect to allowing or supporting a referral from Fort Resolution to Hay River for the services that happen to be in Hay River, but where there aren't services in Hay River, they are going to have to be referred to somewhere else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: I thank the Minister for that response. I guess I am just looking for a bit of a timeframe on that. I know that many of my constituents, unofficially, do go to doctors in Hay River, when the doctors are in Hay River, or see the local, if there are local doctors. I am wondering, when this all becomes official, anybody from anywhere in the NWT can see any doctor anywhere in NWT; I am wondering when that would be in full effect?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We are in Canada. Regardless of where you go, as a Canadian citizen, to receive health services they are covered through reciprocal billing. In the Northwest Territories, if somebody from Fort Resolution made the personal choice to go see a practitioner in Hay River today, there is nothing stopping them from doing that.

When the system kicks in, whether or not somebody is going to get support, say through something like medical travel, it would have to be based on a referral. There is nothing stopping residents from Fort Resolution going to see a doctor in Yellowknife or going to see a doctor in Hay River. If they receive a referral to go out for services outside of their community, that is when something like medical travel would kick in. If you are making a choice to go to Hay River or making a choice to go to Yellowknife to see a practitioner that would be on your dime, not on medical travel. I am not sure if that is what the Member is getting at, but that is the way it is set up.

MR. BEAULIEU: That is sort of what I am looking for. Right now, if a patient presents in Fort Resolution at the health centre then the referral is to Yellowknife. My question was that if a person presents at the health centre, is it an easy possibility for them, today, if their medical travel would be covered today to get referred to a doctor if there is a general practitioner in Hay River?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I really want to say yes, but it really depends on the nature of the condition on which the person is presenting. If it is a condition where they need to see a GP, but they don't need to see a GP today or tomorrow or even next week, it could be rescheduled for their own community, for when the GP is coming in. If the individual is presenting with a more serious condition that needs immediate attention, it could be that they are referred to a specialist or a particular type of practitioner in Yellowknife. If that

particular type of practitioner exists in Hay River, conceivably they could be referred there, but it really depends on what the condition of the individual is.

As far as the appointments and having regular appointments in Hay River, I will check where we are with our memorandums of understanding and agreement to see what is available as far as referrals. If the person has a condition that can't be dealt with in Hay River, they would not be referred to Hay River. They might have to fly through Hay River or drive through Hay River to fly to another location, which I know can be frustrating, but we need to send them to where the services are.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my constituents from Fort Resolution, I want to ask the Minister if he could tell me when he anticipates this coming into effect, and if, in fact, currently, the services in Hay River, if the health and social services medical travel policy could travel individuals from Fort Resolution to travel to Hay River to see a doctor at the services there? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, with respect to services currently provided in Hay River, I believe those agreements are already in place; I will confirm that for the Member. As far as medical travel, medical travel will cover any of our northern residents if they are referred to a service in a different community. If they are referred to a service that is in Hay River, and it has to be a service that is in Hay River, medical travel would apply obviously. If the service is not available in Hay River, medical travel would apply to the point where it is available recognizing our protocols. Our agreements are with Alberta. At this point, it would require you to go to an institution in Alberta or Stanton if Stanton is where the service happens to be. I will confirm where our relationships are with respect to memorandums of agreement and understanding with the Hay River authority at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 461-18(2):
NORTHERN POLYTECHNIC PROPOSAL

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to my line of questioning to the new campus facility here in Yellowknife. I would like to ask the Minister of Education if he will direct his department to put the new campus into the capital planning process so

we can start to get underway on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we just finished our capital planning budget, there are a lot of priorities that are out there and needs right from our smallest community to here in Yellowknife. We have 23 learning centres in some of our communities throughout the North. We have three campuses that we feel that the space can be used a little bit better. At this time, I won't direct my department to put it in the next capital budget. We are going to wait for that strategic plan to come before all Members of this Assembly and look at what space and needs are needed here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, apart from the strategic plan that will come out of Aurora College, that facility needs serious work and is inadequate for many of the needs that the other two campuses in Fort Smith and Inuvik enjoy. I spoke to science and research development opportunities. This is simply not there. I am not asking the Minister to pay for it. I am asking the Minister to begin the planning process for it, not to commit to spending on it, but to commit to starting to do the work on it. Sometimes it can take five, 10 years to move these projects along. If we start work on it now, we can be better positioned to take advantage of it later. Will the Minister commit to directing the department to put it in the capital planning process?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The department has already done work in terms of how much a new campus would cost. If we are looking to do a new planning study, that has to go through the capital budget as well. Money needs to go in to develop the schematic design. Moving forward, as I mentioned, we are not going to know what kind of space is needed until we see what that strategic plan looks like. We are waiting for that to be completed before we make any decisions that are going to cost this government and the taxpayers millions of dollars.

MR. TESTART: Can the Minister indicate how much this new campus will cost?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Under the work that has been done by the department in terms of looking at Yellowknife campuses, somewhere in the amount of over \$60 million. It will change as we move forward because costs for building supplies usually go up, somewhere around those figures. Like I said, it has to go through the process. It is in the 20-year needs assessment, as well as looking at the strategic plan, waiting for that, to see what space and needs are required.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is nice to know that we do have a ballpark figure for this. I appreciate that there are many needs across the territory. At the same time, if we are going to invest in post-secondary education, we need the right facilities to do it. A new campus facility could be a strategic investment to support local economies in our capital. It can create jobs. It can create new opportunities and allow students to stay within the North to achieve their educational aspirations. Again, can the Minister start working on a feasibility for this and reaching out to partners in the federal government and in the private sector and private citizens to look for endowment, to find money for this project, which would be of crucial importance to supporting our people here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly what we're doing. When we look at any kind of strategic investments in our infrastructure we've got to put it up against what other needs are in the communities. We have some small communities. For instance, in the last government we had one of our smallest communities that just had a running toilet/washroom. I don't know if the Members remember that. So when we're looking for a new campus, we've got to look at our needs assessment right from our smallest communities and put it up against what's already existing in some of our big communities and regional centres here in Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Member for Frame Lake.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 12-18(2): STATUS OF VACANCIES ON CO-MANAGEMENT BOARDS

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have three written questions. First one.

My questions are for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. Regarding the co-management boards governing the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, what progress has the Government of the Northwest Territories made on ensuring that all vacancies on the co-management boards are filled; and could the Minister provide background information on the current state of vacancies, including:

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

Second set of questions, Mr. Speaker:

WRITTEN QUESTION 13-18(2): FILLING VACANCIES ON CO-MANAGEMENT BOARDS

MR. O'REILLY: My questions are for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. Regarding the co-management boards governing the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, what steps have been taken to track and publicly report on the status of co-management board appointments and vacancies, and:

1. What measures have been put in place to forewarn of co-management board vacancies;
2. What measures have been put in place to avoid the occurrence of co-management board vacancies resulting in the loss of board quorum;
3. What discussions have taken place with the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs on improved processes for the prompt appointment of co-management board members; and,
4. What future actions are planned in cooperation with our federal counterparts to improve the timeliness and efficiency of co-management board appointment processes?

Third set of questions, Mr. Speaker

WRITTEN QUESTION 14-18(2): COMMISSIONER'S LAND ACT SECURITY DEPOSITS

MR. O'REILLY: My questions are for the Minister of Lands. Section 3.1 of the Commissioner's Land Act establishes the requirement for the posting of security on the factors for determining security amount, for restoration of lands, and for refund of security. Please provide a listing of the commercial and industrial leases on Commissioner's land issued since February 15, 2011 including the lease number, general location, issue date, amount and form of security required, and:

1. Whether an exemption was granted under any leases from the requirement to provide security, including the reasons why the exemption was granted;
2. A general explanation of how the amount of security is calculated under this regime;
3. A general explanation of how the posting of security is managed and tracked under this regime; and,
4. In instances where securities have been returned, the amount and reasons for the return of security.

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 Health and Social Services.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 222-18(2)
MIND AND SPIRIT: PROMOTING MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS RECOVERY IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK 2016-2021

TABLED DOCUMENT 223-18(2):
BUILDING A CULTURALLY RESPECTFUL
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM
OCTOBER 2016

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Mind and Spirit: Promoting Mental Health and Addictions Recovery in the Northwest Territories," and "Building a Culturally Respectful Health and Social Services System, October 2016." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 224-18(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES: SPORT, RECREATION AND
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Government of the Northwest Territories: Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Review Final Report." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Lands.

TABLED DOCUMENT 225-18(2):
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS: INTEGRATED RISK-
BASED STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2017 TO 2020-
2021

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Department of Lands: Integrated Risk-based Strategic Plan 2016-2017 to 2020-2021." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

TABLED DOCUMENT 226-18(2):
INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
MARCH 31, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 227-18(2):
INTER-ACTIVITY TRANSFERS EXCEEDING
\$250,000 FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1 TO
JUNE 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 228-18(2):
INTER-ACTIVITY TRANSFERS EXCEEDING
\$250,000 FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1 TO
SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 229-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 383-
18(2): REMEDIATION OF ARSENIC
CONTAMINATION NEAR GIANT MINE SITE

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following four documents entitled "Interim Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 2016," "Inter-Activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period April 1 to June 30, 2016," "Inter-Activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period April 1 to September 30, 2016," and "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 383-18(2): Remediation of Arsenic Contamination Near Giant Mine Site." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 230-18(2):
GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS RESULTS
REPORT 2015-2016

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Grants and Contributions Results Report 2015-2016." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

TABLED DOCUMENT 231-18(2):
ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT AND FUTURE
VALUE OF INDIGENOUS GUARDIAN WORK
IN CANADA'S NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Analysis of the Current and Future Value of Indigenous Guardian Work in Canada's Northwest Territories."

TABLED DOCUMENT 232-18(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 233-18(2):
ANNUAL REPORT: NWT LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY PENSION PLANS AT MARCH 31,
2015

TABLED DOCUMENT 234-18(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY PENSION ADMINISTRATION
REPORT – RETIRING ALLOWANCES ACT AND
SUPPLEMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES
ACT AT MARCH 31, 2015

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Pursuant to Section 21 of the Human Rights Act, I wish to table the "2015-2016 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission."

Pursuant to Section 21(1) of the Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act and Section 11.1 of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the "Annual Report, NWT Legislative Assembly Pension Plans at March 31, 2015."

In accordance with Section 21(1) of the Retiring Allowances Act and Section 11.1 of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, I hereby table the "Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Pension Administration Report - Retiring Allowances Act and Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act at March 31, 2015." Masi.

Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Minister of Health and Social Services.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 13:
MARRIAGE ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake that Bill 13, The Marriage Act, be read for the second time. This bill sets out the rules for governing marriages in the Northwest Territories. It sets out eligibility, the requirements and the process for getting married in both civil and religious ceremonies. It also creates prohibitions and offences. Lastly, it provides for administrative measures such as the appointment of registration of officials, authorizes the making of regulations and, consequently, amends the Vital Statistics Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 13 has had its second reading. It is now referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 3-18(2) and Committee Report 4-18(2), with Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, committee wishes to consider Committee Report 3-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 NWT Human Rights Commission Annual Report, and Committee Report 4-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Public Accounts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Committee will resume after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I'll now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we've agreed to consider Committee Report 3-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 NWT Human Rights Commission Annual Report. I will turn to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations for any opening comments. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On November 1, 2016, the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its report on the review of the Human Rights Commissions Annual Report for 2014-2015. In our review, we noted that the Human Rights Commission had contracted an independent review of the Human Rights Act and that modernization of the Act was recommended. The Standing Committee on Government Operations made two recommendations.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. I'll open the floor to general comments on the report. I'm seeing none. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Chair, I'd like to express my thanks to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and particularly for their recommendation number 6 which argues for a plain language -- oh no, am I in the wrong report? I'm going to stop now.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Yes. Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Testart?

COMMITTEE MOTION 38-19(2):
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF
THE 2014-2015 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNUAL
REPORT – MODERNIZATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS ACT,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories advise the House of its timeline for the completion and introduction of a bill to modernize and update the Human Rights Act. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): There is a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 39-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 3-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT – RESPONSE
TO REPORT WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this report within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Do you agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 3-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 NWT Human Rights Commission Annual Report?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We have concluded the consideration. Next we have agreed to consider Committee Report 4-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Public Accounts. I will turn to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations for any opening comments, Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On November 1, 2016, the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Public Accounts. The Standing Committee on Government Operations made eight recommendations, including recommendations regarding the provision of information as well as the development of plain language materials. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. I will open the floor to general comments. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am grateful for the work of this committee around the issue of plain language reporting on the public accounts. As a new Member with a lot of education, still I found the public accounts very difficult to understand. That is a view that is shared by the C.D. Howe Institute where they grade all of the public account presentations. I am very much looking forward to plain language reporting on the public accounts, which we can share with our

constituents so that they can understand how their money is being spent by us. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Anything further, Mr. Testart?

MR. TESTART: Yes, Mr. Chair. I thank Ms. Green for her comments. Certainly, this is a very important area of oversight and accountability that is performed by parliamentary committees. The standing committee had an opportunity to meet with public accounts committees from across Canada at this year's annual conference. Much was learned, in particular the amount of work that these committees do to hold government accountable and understand how money is being spent. Of course, we found that our financial documents could have their readability improved in the interest of openness and transparency, which of course, is a priority for this government. The standing committee has made that recommendation.

We look forward to working with the Department of Finance to help move that along. In particular, making it clear where the government's fiscal responsibility policy fits into the public accounts is a very serious priority for the committee. We look forward, again, to continuing that work and creating documents that can be used by both the public and MLAs without the assistance of the Auditor General of Canada. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Government Operations for their work on this report. I am not a member of the committee, but I sat in on the review of the public accounts. That was a very thorough review with the assistance of the staff of the Auditor General's office from Ottawa. I agree with the recommendations that have been brought forward.

I want to thank the committee. This one is a good one as my colleague, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, mentioned. First time going through it, it was difficult to understand a lot of what was there. With the assistance of the Auditor General's staff, our own staff, it became a lot more understandable. I believe these recommendations are meant to improve the presentation of this information and make it much easier for folks that come after us and for the public to understand what is going on. I strongly support these recommendations. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 40-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – TIMING FOR PROVISION
OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommends that the Minister of Finance provide the Standing Committee on Government Operations with the interim public accounts by August 31st, in time for standing committee review of the government's business plans. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Testart.

COMMITTEE MOTION 41-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – COMPLETION OF
INTERIM AND FINAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the office of the comptroller general in the Department of Finance work with the Auditor General of Canada and GNWT departments, boards, and agencies to complete the interim and final public accounts at the earliest possible date each year and in time to meet statutory reporting deadlines and to seek the necessary extensions where those deadlines cannot be met. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. McNeely.

COMMITTEE MOTION 42-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – ADHERENCE TO
DEADLINES FOR COMPLETION OF PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS,
CARRIED

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the office of the Comptroller General include in the consolidated public accounts a list of all departments, boards, and agencies in the government reporting entity, their deadlines for the completion of financial statements, and whether or not those deadlines were met. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. McNeely.

COMMITTEE MOTION 43-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT INFORMATION FOR
POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED SITES,
CARRIED

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories continue to provide updated timetables or schedules for the environmental assessments of all known potentially contaminated sites for which the GNWT is responsible to be included annually in the public accounts. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I support this motion. Some of the reasons are outlined in the report itself, but our inventory of contaminated sites continues to grow. In 2014, it was 129. Last year, at March 31st, it was 216 contaminated sites. The liability associated with those sites continues to grow as well. In 2014, it was 32.1 million. Now, it is 68.9 as of March 31, 2015.

These are the reasons why I continue to raise these issues around contaminated sites and the need for us to have a proper system in place to prevent public liabilities and for financial security. I will keep raising these. We need to get this information into the public accounts on a regular basis. It was in a consolidated form for the period that this report covers. It was difficult to get a more detailed list and an inventory, but the recommendation here is to make sure that we have better public disclosure of these liabilities. I strongly support it. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 44-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – REPORTING ON
INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AND
AFFORDABLE DEBT,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommends that, in addition to reporting on a consolidated basis on the performance measures specified in the fiscal responsibility policy, the Government of the Northwest Territories report on a non-consolidated basis on the performance measures related to the policy provisions on infrastructure financing and affordable debt. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 45-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – PLAIN LANGUAGE
REPORTING ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Minister of Finance work with the Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency to develop plain language materials that report on the public accounts in a manner that is understandable for an interested, non-professional reader. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This motion makes specific reference to working with the Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency. We know that the Minister is currently engaged in the Open Government Plan, the Comprehensive Review to ATIPP, but I haven't heard if this work towards the public accounts has been included on that list of projects. I'm wondering if the honourable Member for Thebacha could respond to that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you for that comment, Mr. Testart. We are discussing a committee report. This is not question period. There is no obligation for the Minister to respond. But if the Minister would voluntarily like to respond to that, I will allow him. If not, that's fine. So, Minister Sebert?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I will respond in the fullness of time. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Nakimayak.

COMMITTEE MOTION 46-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – REPORTING ON
STUDENT LOAN REMISSIONS,
CARRIED

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Department of Finance consider amending the Non-consolidated Schedule of Bad Debt Write-offs, Forgiveness and Student Loan Remissions by removing the names of those who have received student loan remissions and reporting only the amount of the remissions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. This was an issue that I raised in the review of the public accounts. Somewhere buried in those three or four volumes is a list of all of the students whose loans have been remitted and how much is outstanding, and they actually have the individual names of the students, which I found to be an invasion of their privacy. So I think that's what this is aimed at, trying to find a way to disclose what those amounts are without invading people's privacy. So I do support this and look forward to the other side responding in an appropriate manner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Chair, my only comment on this is: whatever happened to transparency? Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The committee carefully considered this recommendation and, looking at the detail provided on other areas in the report in the public accounts, we felt that this was over and above what others — an example is contaminated sites. There is no inventory of contaminated sites, but there is an inventory of everyone receiving student loan remission. These are not bad debts; these are students in the remission process. So to the honourable Member from Thebacha's point, transparency is important and the amounts owing certainly are, but attaching them to people who are not carrying bad debts, the committee felt that that was inappropriate to do. We want to ensure that students have their privacy protected, especially students that are following the remission process carefully and accurately. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion. Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Nakimayak.

COMMITTEE MOTION 47-18(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(2), STANDING
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2014-2015
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – RESPONSE TO REPORT
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this report within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called.

---Carried

You have concluded consideration of Committee Report 4-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Public Accounts. Thank you, committee. We have concluded consideration of the report. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 3-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 NWT

Human Rights Commission Annual Report and Committee Report 4-18(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Public Accounts. I would like to report progress with 10 motions being adopted, and that Committee Reports 3-18(2) and 4-18(2) are concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

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

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, November 4, 2016, 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
 - Motion 28-18(2), Extended Adjournment of the House to January 31, 2017
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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, November 4, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

