



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3rd Session

Day 10

18th Assembly

HANSARD

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Pages 3217 - 3236

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**Wednesday, February 14, 2018****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 26-18(3):
UPDATE ON BOREAL AND BARREN-GROUND
CARIBOU MANAGEMENT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, decisions about caribou management are a shared responsibility of the NWT and are made in collaboration with Indigenous, territorial, and federal governments and boards that have responsibilities for wildlife management and land-use planning decisions. Overall population and herd-specific management plans define monitoring and management actions in the NWT and play a key role in overall caribou management. As part of our government's mandate, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has made commitments to implement an updated management strategy for barren-ground caribou and develop a range planning framework for boreal caribou.

Most caribou herds across northern Canada have been declining or are stable at low numbers. Many are at or near historic low numbers. Mr. Speaker, boreal caribou are listed as a threatened species under both the federal and territorial Species at Risk Acts. Population declines across Canada are linked to habitat disturbance from industrial activity such as roads, logging and seismic lines, and forest fires.

Under the federal Species at Risk Act, there is a requirement to protect critical habitat. The act stipulates that, across Canada, jurisdictions must maintain at least 65 per cent undisturbed habitat within each local boreal caribou population range. This is a national threshold set by the Government of Canada that all jurisdictions are bound by.

ENR is leading the development of a Boreal Caribou Range Planning Framework outlining the GNWT's approach to meet this requirement in a way that integrates environmental protection with populations and sustainable economic development. It is a made-in-the-NWT approach drafted with co-management partners, developed with wildlife co-management boards and with other GNWT departments through the Inter-Departmental Species at Risk Committee.

We have completed a draft of the Boreal Caribou Range Planning Framework and will begin engagement with stakeholders and Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment in March. This work will be completed early in the life of the next Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to barren-ground caribou, they were recently assessed as threatened by both the federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and the NWT Species at Risk Committee. As required in legislation, ENR is currently conducting broad public engagement and consultation on whether barren-ground caribou should be added to the NWT List of Species at Risk.

Building on the previous Barren-Ground Caribou Management Strategies from 2006-2010 and 2011-2015, an updated Barren-Ground Caribou Management Strategy for 2018-2022 is in draft form, and ENR is set to begin engagement and consultation this month with Indigenous governments, co-management partners, stakeholders, Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, and the public. A final strategy is expected to be completed in the fall.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT has a history of cooperative working relationships and partnerships with Indigenous governments when it comes to wildlife management, something that contributes to a successful approach to Indigenous reconciliation, that ensures Indigenous views and priorities are part of government decision-making. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 27-18(3):
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICERS –
JANUARY 2018

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as part of our government's commitment to create opportunities for Northerners to live and work in the Northwest Territories, the Department of Lands launched a Resource Management Officer training and development program three years ago. Since its creation, there have been two graduates of the program, with another nearing completion in the coming months. These first graduates have been permanently employed with the Department of Lands, and recruiting for new Resource Management Officers will begin shortly.

The training program began with the recruitment of entry-level, or level 1, resource management officers in each of the department's five regional offices. Participants completed courses through the Environment and Natural Resources Training Program offered at Aurora College, an orientation course to the Government of the Northwest Territories, as well as safety and on-the-job training.

During this training period, these resource management officers are supported financially by the department. Through extensive training and mentorship, incumbents increase their employability and essential skills for this position. Those who successfully complete the program are then qualified to be level 2 resource-management officers or inspectors with the Department of Lands.

These resource management officer positions, along with other resource management and superintendent positions, open career paths for northern residents and succession planning opportunities for the Department of Lands. The program also supports our government's priority to foster skill development, training, and employability for residents in all of our communities. Our program is building on the programs offered at our post-secondary northern institutions, is exposing Northerners to an exciting and rewarding career path, and is successfully graduating participants into positions with the Government of the Northwest Territories in communities throughout the territory.

The Department of Lands relies on qualified inspectors to ensure responsible and sustainable development in the Northwest Territories. Their success in the field relies on a combination of education, practical experience, and land-based knowledge as they carry out, on average, approximately 700 inspections annually throughout the territory.

Mr. Speaker, this program is a success for the Department of Lands, for our residents, and for our government. Congratulations to all those who have successfully completed the program, and I look forward to the continued success of this initiative of the Department of Lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Hay River North.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the problems surrounding procurement have been raised numerous times by numerous Members of this House, yet, despite what we say, the Minister of Infrastructure insists that the GNWT has a top-notch procurement policy.

We have relayed our constituents' complaints about the policy to him on multiple occasions, but he continually insists that, aside from one or two people, no one has issues with it. The implication is that we're "fake news," Mr. Speaker, but we're not making this up. I've had half a dozen business owners and representatives in my office in Hay River discuss their concerns about procurement with me. I sat in on the manufacturing strategy consultation in Hay River, and heard the concerns about procurement. I've met with multiple business owners in Yellowknife and further concerns about procurement. I've met with representatives in the Beaufort Delta and heard their concerns. I hear the concerns coming out of the Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, I can't understand how the Minister doesn't hear the chorus of people from across the NWT who have serious concerns about the GNWT procurement practices. There's a growing number of small businesses that are so fed up that they refuse to do business with the GNWT anymore; and it's not just because of the red tape, the ridiculous paperwork, or the senseless policies. It's also the arrogance and the lack of respect shown to private businesses and entrepreneurs. It's no surprise that the GNWT has once again earned an "F" on the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses' Annual Report Card.

Procurement is one of the most powerful tools the GNWT has to build capacity, grow Northern businesses, and most importantly, put people to work. That doesn't seem to matter. The department would rather save a few bucks on an infrastructure project by contracting a southern company over a northern one, despite the fact that the benefit to the North in terms of skill development, job creation, and local purchasing would far outstrip any price difference.

The department would rather import manufactured goods from the South than support a northern business by tweaking a departmental policy handed

down on high because it would require political will and a little bit of energy.

The department would rather put on its "how to do business with the GNWT" workshops than ask businesses how it can be better at doing business with them. The GNWT's failure to use its purchasing power as a tool to support small businesses and diversify the economy runs contrary to the mandate of this Assembly and is a black mark on this government. The fact that the Minister denies there is even a problem raises serious questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, Hear

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROCUREMENT POLICY RELATED TO PROGRESS PAYMENTS

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be an exciting day for the Minister of Infrastructure, as a number of us today have statements on procurement.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised numerous complaints around the procurement policies of this government. It is adversely impacting my constituents and the constituents of many other MLAs across the territory. It is time that we take a look at these policies and make them work for the people of the Northwest Territories, not for the Department of Infrastructure. It's time that we invest in the North and use procurement as a way to grow the economy, create jobs, and enrich businesses. Also, to develop their capacity. This Minister continues to ignore these requests from this side of the House. This Minister continues to say there are no problems. How many problems do we need to bring to his doorstep until he'll take action?

Well, we'll see, Mr. Speaker, because I have another issue I'd like to raise today. The current policy around payments, progress payments from our government for work completed, is you're only allowed to receive progress payments if you can post a supply bond that is not less than 100 per cent of the contract value. What small businesses can afford that, Mr. Speaker? While they lack progress payments, they need to come up with the capital to complete these projects. This is an untenable situation for many small businesses. The current policy strains cash flow, especially for small businesses that still have to meet payroll, pay taxes, pay WSCC premiums and other costs.

This is so bad it has forced some businesses into insolvency in some cases, and certainly discourages them from competing on RFP

processes. The current policy stymies job creation and restricts investment in apprenticeship training. The construction industry alone accounts for 40 per cent of all apprenticeships in Canada, as trade contractors must limit their payroll commitments to meet cash flow expectations. Late payment practices erode the level playing field, as those who maintain honourable practices are put at a disadvantage.

These issues around payment are not secret, Mr. Speaker. They are well-known to the Minister. They are well-known to the department, and they are well-known to me and to other Members of this House. It's time to stop sleeping at the wheel on procurement issues. It's time to turn procurement into an economic engine for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it's a third round on procurement, but I'll start with some kudos because, Mr. Speaker, I have to admit I am encouraged to see the work that this government is doing in developing a manufacturing strategy. Frankly, this strategy does support our mandate commitment to expand and grow our manufacturing sector, promote and market NWT products, and aid in the professional and technological advancement of the industry.

The public engagement sessions conducted last year provides significant insight into the challenges and opportunities faced by our communities. Some of the common themes are related to labour, recruitment and retention, training and development, infrastructure, and geography.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about GNWT policies and practices that are hurting our local businesses. Specifically, I'd like to echo complaints from my constituents on our procurement practices, guided by the Business Incentive Policy and the Northern Manufacturers' Products Policy. Mr. Speaker, our small businesses already face significant disadvantages in being located here in the North. Instead of supporting them, it seems that sometimes our own practices are used to exclude these manufacturers from being able to compete on RFPs or contracts with the government.

Frankly, there's a general lack of confidence in the GNWT's procurement processes. We've heard of some local companies that choose not to bid on RFPs because of adverse past experiences and the government's inability to address complaints about

the process. Some businesses also stated that government actively seeks to change procurement requirements in order to skirt policies designed to promote northern businesses so that southern suppliers could be hired instead.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame

MR. VANTHUYNE: Other concerns include the lack of policy enforcement; the numerous loopholes that detract from the intent of the policies; the disconnect between the Business Incentive Policy and the Northern Manufacturing Policy, since they are policies of different departments; and inflexibility in not allowing for progress payments on larger projects, as we've already heard.

Mr. Speaker, we have the advantage of having the Departments of Infrastructure and Industry, Tourism and Investment being led by the same Minister. A review and harmonization of our procurement policies is long overdue. I hope that the Minister takes this feedback seriously, and restores confidence in the procurement process. We must have confidence so that it is fair and fulfills the intent of our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING ISSUES ON HAY RIVER RESERVE

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to speak to you today about the state of housing on the Hay River reserve. The problem is, I don't know what else I can say. I have told you that my constituents have come to me in frustration and despair. Families are forced to choose between separation, with young people leaving the community to find housing, or overcrowding, with inadequate homes degrading the fabric of family life. We have tried to work with the GNWT. We have tried to work with the federal government. We have been patient, and yet the situation has not materially changed.

At a constituency meeting in the Hay River Reserve last month, residents shared the concerns of overcrowding and the disappointment of the failure to progress on this file. I know the Minister is making an effort, Mr. Speaker, and I thank her for that. I know that dealing with the federal government on these units isn't easy. We are still waiting on six units while the 10 units now under the Housing Corporation remain empty. This just isn't an administrative problem loading up on someone's desk in Yellowknife or Ottawa. This is far more than paperwork at stake. We are talking about people's lives, their dignity, and their rights as Indigenous people under Treaty 8 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people.

It is 2018. Indigenous people need adequate housing. While Canada and the GNWT are calm in the seas of bureaucracy, both are failing to provide the leadership necessary to address this critical need. A handful of units, Mr. Speaker; that is all it would take to change the lives of residents of the Hay River Reserve forever. Surely, that is not too much to ask. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PTARMIGAN MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. On January 12, 2018, TerraX Minerals announced that it had acquired the mineral rights at the old Ptarmigan Mine for \$5,000. While this may be good news for some, it raises serious questions about the remediation of the site. While this property was a gold producer in the 1940s, 1980s, and 1990s, it was abandoned over 20 years ago and is another mining public liability.

Some minor remediation work has been done at the site, including signage and fencing, but the buildings are in shambles. Dust from the tailings pond continues to blow around unabated. Further remediation apparently awaits negotiations with the federal government, as does the allocation of those costs between GNWT and Canada.

It is not clear why the mineral rights for the site were made available for further development while the site is under remediation. Similarly, it is not clear how the company has claimed it "has no liability for any remediation of the previous mine site."

How will the acquisition of the mineral rights for the Ptarmigan Mine site affect the ability to carry out remediation of the site? If there are exploration activities going on, such as drilling, sampling, or trenching, this could presumably impact the ability to carry out remediation. I discussed the acquisition of the Ptarmigan Mine with the representative of TerraX. They would like the property remediated as much as anyone else, but the company has encountered many problems in trying to work with GNWT over this site and the abandoned Crestaurum Mine. While there are legitimate concerns around liability, the issue of Good Samaritan legislation and policy deserves some attention from this government.

The news release issued by TerraX on the Ptarmigan Mine raises more questions than it answers. I will have questions later today for the Minister of Lands. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
STUDENT CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, industrious northern students are already submitting their applications for work as summer students and interns with the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honour their hard work and their commitment to live, work, and give back to their home communities by talking a little bit about student success.

We know that quality early childhood education, whether provided at home, at playschool, or through programs like the Aboriginal Head Start or junior kindergarten, are critical to the emotional and intellectual foundation that our children need to thrive. A foundation is just that, something to build on. As students move through primary and elementary school and then high school, they need programs that deliver core curriculum, but also programs that speak to unique community and cultural needs.

Mr. Speaker, cultural programming ensures that students can remain immersed in their culture, their language, traditions, and activities throughout the course of their western education. Plus, local people such as elders, language teachers, and hunters and trappers can be included in the planning and delivering of this programming. They can pass on knowledge, values, and traditional ways of life.

Mr. Speaker, attendance at school and the completion of schoolwork fills the majority of students' waking hours for the entirety of their development from the age of four to the age of 18, if not beyond. Where culture-based education is fully integrated into students' experiences, their sense of pride and community will soon follow. With pride and cultural strength come improved performance and achievement, including attendance and marks. That is why we need to support our students to succeed both in high school and beyond to any opportunities that they wish to pursue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. MCNEELY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will join the procurement train here and have questions for the appropriate Minister. More specifically, I see the values and the process of procurement only to

ensure and build confidence in our private sector, Mr. Speaker, to ensure confidence in our private sector. I can only ask the questions later on to the appropriate Minister more specifically in regards to the P3 process. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EULOGY FOR RITA CAZON

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I regret to inform you that Rita Cazon passed away on November 16, 2017.

In talking with her family, I was told in typical Rita fashion. Rita was born in Edmonton on August 6, 1954. What the unique thing was, was her family was visiting Canada from Germany. Four years later, the family moved back to Canada via New York on a big ship, as they would say. She was raised in Leduc, Alberta, until she was 17 years old. Then she moved to Yellowknife in 1972.

That year, while attending school in Yellowknife, Ernest Cazon saw this very beautiful lady and said, "Wow. I need to get to know her." Unfortunately, he did not get that chance during that year. In 1974, as fate would have it, Rita ended up moving to Fort Simpson and worked at the Nahanni Inn where Ernest saw her again. As he told me, here was his soulmate. On October 15, 1975, the two were married with a huge community celebration.

Mr. Speaker, Rita and her family were known for their willingness to foster children. She was known to be able to relate to them at a level others were not. Rita and her family fostered over 168 youth during this time. The youth felt that this was their home, and so did their friends. I had the pleasure of knowing her and her family personally. She looked after my children for a number of years. She was considered and is considered "Auntie Rita" to them.

Rita was known for her willingness to help with elections, regardless if it was band, municipal, NWT, or federal. She was an excellent resource of knowledge when it came to election issues and challenges. One time, when there was acclamation in the Nahendeh riding, she was asked to go to another riding to help out, and she moved away from her family during this time. Even after retirement, she was still called upon for help.

She sat on Local Education Authority, Community Education Council, and the District Education Authority to make sure youth had a good commitment from adults in the riding. Rita was known for being part of the community. She was always volunteering her time for various events. During our ball tournaments, she was always

keeping score and announcing the games. Ballplayers, umpires, and fans loved her humour and wisecracks. She was part of every tournament and will be sadly missed.

Mr. Speaker, Rita was known about fairness. One time, her and two friends were in a store and noticed the produce was going bad. They placed the food on the floor and were heard saying, "This food is not good enough for human consumption." Within a half hour, the store brought out the new produce and apologized.

Rita was known for her baking, especially during bazaars. She would have five to 10 tables full of her baking. Unfortunately, for the family, nothing was left to go home. Luckily for Ernest, she would come home and bake some bread or buns for her love. Mr. Speaker, the family would like to thank Stanton Hospital, Fort Simpson Medical Travel, Liidli Kue First Nation, Fort Simpson Metis Local, Fort Simpson High-Performance Soccer, Fort Simpson Ambulance and Fire Department, and Doctor Hubert for all the support during her sickness and during this family's difficult time.

Rita is survived by her husband, two sons, daughter, and two granddaughters and grandson. The service will be later this month. She will be sadly missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences to the family, as well. 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 draw your attention to visitors in the gallery. I am pleased to recognize Mr. David Jones, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Northwest Territories, who has joined us for the tabling of his annual report later this afternoon. Please join me in welcoming him to our proceedings today.

Colleagues, we have with us distinguished guests. I apologize in advance if I mispronounce your names, but I will try my best. I am pleased to recognize a group with us here today from Ontario Legislative Internship. They are here this week to learn about our consensus-style government. They are Daryl Gonsalves, Mackenzie Taylor, Jaskiran Shoker, Shireen Salti, Matthew Klassen, Harmeet Sandhu, Ana Qarri, Josef Methot, and Cassandra Loewen. Thanks for joining us here today. Enjoy your time in the Northwest Territories. Masi for coming. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife South.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to recognize the following people from

Dene Nahjo in the gallery today. They are authors of "We are One Mind - Perspectives from Emerging Indigenous Leaders on the Arctic Policy Framework," a document that I will be tabling later today; Nina Larsson, Kayla Kakfwi Scott, Mande McDonald and Deneshe N'akehkoeh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would look to recognize our interpreter who does the interpreting in my language, Mr. Tommy Unka. Thank you.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize a couple of the Pages from Hay River North who have been here with us this week, Ms. Madison Beck and Mr. Richer Ignacio. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery, welcome to our Chambers. It's always great to have an audience as part of the proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 101-18(3): SPORT AND RECREATION FUNDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot of concerns and questions about the Western Canada Lotteries Act, and we're soon to be hearing about some multi-sport funding issues within the budget here. So my first question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs: can the Minister please advise if the Western Canada Lotteries Act has a clause in the bill that allows the lotteries to be used for multi-sport games? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, yes, the proposed bill that was submitted to standing committee does have a clause in it that allows the dispersal of funds to cover multi-sport games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Just a friendly reminder to Members that this bill is before standing committee. So if you could not go into detail on specific questions, I'll allow further debates, but not specific details. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Uh, oh. We'll work on it.

---Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for the clarification on that. This is going to be a little bit challenging, but I guess we'll go into what's in the budget and -- the budget is before the House, too. Oh, well, here we go: what is the intention in the budget with the bill in adding this multi-sport games funding to the bill? Can you answer that question?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Basically, Mr. Speaker, why did I include the line in the bill, is my understanding of the question. So I'm going to try to state that without getting into trouble for talking about the bill. Basically, it's important that the -- I'm struggling to not talk about the bill.

It's important, Mr. Speaker, that all of the monies that are obtained through the Lottery Fund are protected and that we can actually use it for sports and recreation, which was the intent of that funding. So I am proposing that we would maintain that, as we have historically done, that we would do that in the future.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer as we navigate on some difficult grounds here. Can the Minister please tell us how much money the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs put into exploration of funding excluding salaries?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Currently, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provides \$8.3 million for sport and recreation programs. That includes \$4.7 million from the Western Canada Lottery Fund revenues and \$3.6 million from the Government of the NWT operation funding for Municipal and Community Affairs.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess \$4.7 million is on taxpayers who actually play lottery, so I appreciate that's where the money is coming from. So can the Minister actually give us a breakdown of the \$3.6 million, where this money is actually spent and allocated? Is it in salaries? Is it programs? Or what variety of programs is this money accounted for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: To divide down the actual monies from what we spend on actually supporting of youth and taking part in sports activities, and from what we pay staff, is a process that would take some time. If the Member would like, he can either present a written question or he can come to my office and I can provide him that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Again, I'd just like to remind Members to refrain from asking questions when the bill is before standing committee. Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

QUESTION 102-18(3):
PUBLIC HOUSING ISSUES ON THE HAY RIVER
RESERVE

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. As I have asked before, will the Minister advise the House on the progress that has been made on the 10 units that have had land tenure? When will these homes be available for occupancy? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the properties, the 10 units that we're talking about, three of them are occupied and seven need repairs. We have actually met with Chief Fabian, January 19th, actually, when my department went down to talk to him, and there are a couple of things we're doing with it. It's really exciting. Like I stated many times in this House, each community has different needs when it comes to housing, so we're looking at my community housing plans. Part of that was working with Chief Fabian, so with the 10 public housing units that are on reserve land, there have always been some issue with land tenure. We've got that straightened out, but what we're also doing is we're moving forward. We're actually working with the chief to actually look at how we can provide employment in his community. He's going to be providing us with a proposal to do a training program so he can train residents on the reserve to do the renovations, and a proposal so that he can maintain the public housing units. That will meet not only the housing needs of the community, but also address some of the employment concerns and the economic development that they have in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: I really have to commend the Minister for taking some extraordinary and constructive steps in ensuring that, ultimately, at some point, more housing will be made available to the residents. So I thank her for taking those steps. The Minister indicated that three houses of the 10 units will be occupied and seven need repairs. What is the current status of work to secure the remaining seven homes?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: For clarification, three of the units are currently occupied. They are not looking at it, so, out of those seven units that are looking at needing renovations, we are working with Chief Fabian. Because of capital plans, we

have to make sure that we spread the wealth throughout all communities, all 33 communities, so, in this fiscal year we are looking at them working in partnership with the chief, with the band, to actually develop five units. Five of the remaining seven will be renovated. Like I said, we are hoping that the chief will come forward and provide us a proposal so that we are training community members to provide services in their community.

MR. NADLI: The next question I wanted to ask is just the next steps: how will the Minister prioritize this work in the months ahead? She has indicated five of the seven units will be renovated.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Like I had stated earlier, prioritizing, we have already met with the chief. We are waiting for him to come back with a proposal to us on how he will provide the work. I should also state that there are six other homes on the reserve that have sat empty for over a decade. It is a sin, Mr. Speaker.

The reason they have sat empty is because of land tenure. It has always been an issue that the land belonged to the federal government and so we could not get it. These buildings were new, sitting empty, with people needing homes, so not only are we looking at the public housing. We are also looking at these homes, as well. Land tenure on those is still an issue, so we are looking at: can we change that into a home ownership? They are on the reserve. That land will not disappear, so can we do like we did with the Salt Lake River Reserve, and can we actually look at turning those units into home ownership units so that people again will actually have more housing.

Is it a priority? Definitely, Mr. Speaker. Every single community and their housing needs are a priority, and we will continue to work hard with every single community to address their housing needs.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again I commend the Minister for taking those extraordinary steps in working with First Nations leaders in our small communities. She has highlighted the model that likely could be templated and used as an example across Canada. Would the Minister be willing to consider the idea of in the future to invite her federal colleagues to visit the Hay River Reserve and see for themselves just the housing issues that people have to contend with? Mahsi.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As a resident of the Northwest Territories myself, I have always felt that often people who are living in the South do not really recognize the needs of the Northwest

Territories. We are often fit into models that "one size fits all." I do not believe in that model. I do not believe that one size fits all. I believe that every community, every territory, every province, has distinct needs and distinct strengths.

Within that philosophy, my own philosophy: every time I go down to meet with any federal Minister, I not only invite them, I almost beg them to come to the Northwest Territories to see our reality; to see, like I stated, our strengths and our weaknesses so that they can understand and so that we will not be put into a box that says "one size fits all," because it does not fit for us. So, yes, I will commit to continuing to advocate that all federal Ministers come up to the Northwest Territories to visit us and to see our realities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 103-18(3):
SUPPORT FOR STUDENT CULTURAL
PROGRAMMING

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke of student success in the dimensions of western and cultural education, and my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is: how does the Department of Education, Culture and Employment support education authorities as well as individual schools when they want to develop unique cultural programming for their students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, we do fund all of the education authorities on an annual basis throughout the Northwest Territories. One of our goals is ensuring that all students are grounded in the reach and diverse history, cultures, language, and heritage of our peoples. As we fund our education authorities, they are encouraged to develop local and regional courses and resources that do focus on culture, heritage, and languages, and we continue to support them.

One other way that we do that is through Elders in Schools. Not only our students, but our teachers, as well: teachers have the opportunity to develop and participate in cultural orientation days. Further to our support for our teachers who work with our students throughout the Northwest Territories, they go through an orientation during our New to the North conference on a yearly basis as well as the work that we do with the NWT Teachers' Association around professional development.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: That is a good piece of information. Mr. Speaker, I understand the department is working on revisions to the Aboriginal Language and Culture Based Education Directive. I would like to get a status from the Minister on that.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: In the 18th Assembly mandate, the GNWT did commit to implementing a renewed directive to strengthen the role of schools in supporting Indigenous language development and cultural programming as well as the TRC's call to actions that address supporting the development of culturally appropriate curricula and the protection of the rights of Indigenous languages, including the teaching of Indigenous languages. We are well into that. As an update for this directive that we are working on, called the NWT JK to Grade 12 Indigenous Languages and Education Policies and Procedures, that will begin being phased into all schools beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the status from the Minister. The Northwest Territories uses an Alberta curriculum. Can the Minister describe what kind of alterations and allowances are made to ensure that northern students are able to see themselves and their cultures reflected in their school experiences?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. As I mentioned earlier, we are very big on supporting culture, heritage, languages in our schools and support our education authorities to deliver these programs. We have made some improvements, such as Elders in Schools, and that has been working very well. We continue to work with Alberta, as you mentioned. As I mentioned in the House, we have really great partnerships with the Minister of Education from Alberta. We are currently participating in working groups on the renewal of the Alberta curriculum that will help them promote culture and Indigenous languages in their schools, but promote how we learn here as Northerners in the Northwest Territories. We have Northern Studies 10, which is reflective of our way of life in the Northwest Territories, as well as Northern Studies 20, which we are currently developing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, my last set of questions: I asked the Minister for a toe, and I did not get that. Mr. Speaker, we talked about culture exchanges between territories and provinces, and, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to learn from each other in prospective communities across the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is: does the department support the cultural exchange between students in the

communities across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Our education authorities or education bodies currently receive about \$9 million from ECE to promote cultural activities, heritage activities, as well as things such as drumming, sewing, beading, traditional classes in traditional practices that we have had over the years. The elders in the schools provide a big opportunity to help teach the traditions, not only traditions and skills, but the values of our ancestors in the schools today as well as working on revitalizing our Indigenous languages. We continue to work with all of our education bodies and support our schools in promoting those programs, on-the-land programs, as well as, as I mentioned, teaching those values that we have lived so long by and will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 104-18(3):
PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I made my statement earlier, I was a little fired up, but I'm here to represent the people, Mr. Speaker, and the people are sick and tired of being ignored. They're exasperated, and so am I. The GNWT has failed to adequately use government procurement to grow and diversify our economy, build capacity, and employ Northerners. These are all priorities for this Assembly. They can be found in the mandate that we all agreed to, even the Minister. I'm not sure if our statements today convinced the Minister that there are issues with the practices of his department, but admitting you have a problem is the first step in fixing it. So will the Minister admit that the concerns we've raised are valid and that there are problems with infrastructures procurement practices? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any concerns that are brought forward to me by any Members of this Legislative Assembly or members of the public are valid, and we sit and listen to them, and my door is always open. As to the comment about having procurement issues in the GNWT and that our policies and procedures are wrong, I totally disagree with the Member. Our department is here to adhere to the policies that are in this Legislative Assembly; it's here to support businesses and, at the same time, protect the GNWT's investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: People always say to me, "We voted for change. What happened?" I'm tired of saying, "We're working on it." I'm starting to say,

"Let's wait another year and a half," because answers like this are ridiculous. Mr. Speaker, I mention the disrespect shown to small businesses by the government. I've seen some of the correspondence sent by the representatives of the GNWT to businesses regarding procurement, and I've heard stories from business owners. Businesses are treated like children and subordinates. The government acts like business exists to serve them, not the other way around. So will this Minister commit to providing ongoing customer service training to all infrastructure employees involved with procurement, the same way the Minister of Housing has done?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad he's asked this question, or has mentioned it, because Infrastructure routinely offers procurement training workshops to Government of the Northwest Territories employees. I will update this House, as of now, the Department of Human Resources does this training calendar, and workshops are held to design NWT procurement process for all procurements regardless of value, and focus on supporting Northwest Territories businesses and manufacturers, wherever possible. Up to date, this year, since April 1st of 2017, the department has delivered 48 procurement training workshops, with over 450 GNWT employees who participated in this, and that's not even counting the workshops that are within our department alone.

MR. SIMPSON: My questions are focused on solutions, but it looks like I'm not going to get any. Having procurement training workshops, teaching these same tactics that are the problem, is not going to solve anything. The question was about customer service, not about more of the same. Will the Minister commit to reviewing the practices of his department regarding procurement to identify and fix the areas that are currently restricting small businesses from effectively competing on RFPs?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I've said, the department is very supportive of northern businesses, and we have to adhere to the policies that are here, and we are here to support and protect the northern purse as well. At the same time, the department has also come out with a community engagement process for RFPs. This is to engage the proponent, the criteria around used to credit available, around the community engagement process, along with the BIP process, to have policies for local and northern labour and material and goods purchases in the Northwest Territories. Under this community engagement criteria, this is what we use to help demonstrate that we are supporting the local economy in the Northwest Territories, and we will continue to do so.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to forgo the rest of my questions. I know the Minister can't offer opinions, but, you know what, it's the government, maybe there's a policy about it. What would it take for the department to realize that there is a problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I've said in this House many times, and I will say it to everyone across the room here, and I don't have a problem saying it, last time I sat in this House, we had two or three people who came to me directly about complaints about the procurement system. Since I've last stood in this House and said the exact same thing, I may have had one person come to me. I do not have a problem with the procurement system within the Government of the Northwest Territories, and I will not review the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 105-18(3):
PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, my honourable friend the Member from Hay River North, talked about the GNWT. I have less of an issue with the policies that our public service has to follow; I'm more with the government. So I want to ask the Premier today if he will direct his Cabinet to do a comprehensive reform of procurement on all of the government approach? Will the Premier commit to doing that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been in government a long time. I've probably been through about six reviews of the Business Incentive Policy, and every time we've brought it forward, there have been no changes because everybody sees that the Business Incentive Policy is the best government policy ever written. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: My next question, again, is for the best Premier ever: will he commit to amending the Minister of Infrastructure's mandate letter to include a review of the procurement policies in the GNWT?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I've had many meetings with the NWT Chamber of Commerce and almost in every instance, when we raise concerns about procurement, it's because of a difference in understanding. Certainly, if the Members can provide me with a list of the problems, as they see them, then we can determine whether there is actually a need for a review of it. And, as I said, the last time I met with the Chamber of Commerce,

which was about four months ago, we asked them to tell us what they see as the problem or what concerns they have, and then we can act on it. Certainly, if we have a whole host of problems where it's warranted to do a review, we will certainly look as doing so.

MR. TESTART: This government has just done a lengthy public engagement process on manufacturing, and in some of those sessions, concerns were raised. I find it hard to believe that there are no concerns that are coming out of these meetings. Maybe the Premier is not talking to the right people, or maybe the Premier needs to listen to this side of the House. So will the Premier commit to look at the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment that recommended procurement reform or an evaluation of procurement policies? Will he look at that recommendation, accept it, and make it part of this government?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'd be pleased to do so if somebody would tell me what the problem was. Is it a service problem? It's been suggested that our employees are not providing the necessary service to businesses. If that's the problem, then we can look at educating our employees further, which we seem to be doing a lot of. If it's the policy problem, well, tell us what the problems are, then we can determine. I mean, working for the government, I like doing reviews, but I want to have a reason for doing it.

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

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many more Member's statements that I need to make or that my honourable friends need to make before the Premier will listen to what we're saying and address those issues. So to the issue of progress payments, will the Premier direct his Minister to fix that problem, to ensure progress payments don't require bonds, and that they can move forward to support small businesses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'd be prepared to look at that, but, obviously, we've gotten to a lot of issues with the fact that we need to protect the government's investments, and if we make progress payments without the necessary securities, then it might put us in a difficult situation. Certainly, now that the Member has raised it, even though I do not know if it is a committee concern, I am prepared to look at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 106-18(3):
DOCTOR RECRUITMENT FOR SMALL
COMMUNITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I made a Member's statement on the doctors and how only 45 per cent of residents in the Northwest Territories had regular doctors, explaining the problems with that, while the rest of Canada is averaging over 80 per cent. I would like to ask the Minister if he can tell this House if the department is still trying to hire doctors to live in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are committed to trying to fill all of our physician positions with local practitioners rather than locum practitioners. We run about a 23.6 per cent vacancy, and we continue to recruit pretty much all the time. That is both for the GPs and for the specialists.

We do recognize that it is a challenge. We are trying to do a few things differently that will hopefully help us improve some of our numbers. One of the things we have done is we have recently talked to the University of Alberta about running a medical residency program here in the Northwest Territories. We are somewhat early days in discussion on that, but we think there is a real opportunity to get some of the students up here to do some of the residency placements. Hopefully, they will fall in love with the place as much as you and I.

MR. BEAULIEU: That is good news about the residents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if the Minister can tell us if the communities of Hay River, Forts Smith and Simpson, Behchoko, Norman Wells, and Inuvik have local doctors? What is the percentage of local doctors, the vacancy rate, in those communities?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, we have most of the positions filled in Yellowknife. We do still need some locums to cover time off, sick time, annual time, those types of things, and people do come and go, so there is turnover in Yellowknife, as well. Beaufort Delta and Inuvik, right now we are pretty fully staffed. I believe there are five physicians out of five up there on a permanent basis, but, you know, any one of them could leave at any time, so we must continue to recruit, even when positions are filled, just to keep the awareness up.

When it comes to Norman Wells, Forts Smith and Simpson, we have reoccurring locums, so individuals who come back on a regular basis, but

do not permanently reside. When they are not there, we do have to rely on other short-term locums. We continue to recruit in those areas, as well. Hopefully, when we open the Norman Wells Health Centre, that might be a bit of a draw for somebody who might want to come and be part of that new facility. We will continue to recruit at the same time.

In Hay River we have, I think it is, three permanent physicians now, but some of the them, I think, are already at a percentage of a full FTE, so we still have some locums there, as well. We will continue to do everything that we can to promote this beautiful territory, the great jobs that are here, and an opportunity to come and work with our residents from across the territory.

MR. BEAULIEU: I would like to ask the Minister if there are any doctors living in Yellowknife who do most of their practicing in one of the other communities I mentioned in my previous question?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we moved to a single medical system here in the Northwest Territories, even though we have individuals located in different communities. We do have physicians who will travel to other communities. Some of our communities, as the Member is aware, do not have permanent physicians, some of our smaller, more rural communities, so doctors will travel to those communities, but not just doctors. We have community health nurses and advanced practice specialists who have additional training. They can do some things like suturing and some level of diagnosis based on formulary and other work. We have other professionals come out, as well. Yes, doctors do travel to communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if there is an actual plan to be rolled out. The plan I guess I am referring to is -- I do not know what it is called, but I am kind of calling it a territorial doctors pool. Is there an actual plan? I know that, when we try to hire doctors, some doctors do not want to live in the small communities because of services for their children, and services for children are just not in in the small communities.

Yellowknife can provide almost all the services, so, as opposed to using locums, is there an actual plan to build a territorial doctors pool here in Yellowknife that will actually work maybe half-time in Hay River, as an example, or half-time in another community? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That is actually one exact model that has been discussed previously, and we have explored it. We do have some of our physicians who can go out and provide time in other locations. There has been talk about expanding the pool in Yellowknife so that we can do that coverage rather than rely on locums. We still have trouble recruiting physicians, so we continue to try to figure out how to move that, roll that forward. In the meantime, we continue to provide that distance care.

One of the things that many of the doctors have approached us on, as well as practitioners throughout the system, and we have looked at other systems, are some changes to our primary healthcare model to change it more to a team-based approach where there are groups of physicians, nurses, social workers, counsellors, who are working together in teams or pockets who can provide coverage and care to different groups throughout the Northwest Territories. It is a model similar to the one that was put in place in one of the Indigenous health authorities in Alaska. So we are looking at that right now to see how that might be something that we could roll out. Since we have moved forward with health transformation, now is the logical time for us to look at this more comprehensively, build upon primary healthcare to provide overall, collaborative, integrated, team-based care to residents of the Northwest Territories. That pool would fall in there, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 107-18(3):
PTARMIGAN MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are not on the procurement zombie. They are for the Minister of Lands. Earlier today, I spoke about the recent acquisition of the mineral rights for the abandoned Ptarmigan Mine and the problems this may cause for remediation of this site and perhaps other contaminated sites. Can the Minister of Lands tell us the current status of remediation at the Ptarmigan Mine? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise that, while no reclamation or remediations have started at the site, the GNWT did complete a Phase III Environmental Site Assessment and remedial action plan. This work was done in preparation for meetings with the federal government to determine respective liabilities with respect to this site, and I can advise that GNWT officials, I think from Lands and ENR, met with Indigenous and Northern Affairs

representatives to discuss the outcomes of the Phase III assessments and remedial action plans that were completed on that site and some other sites in 2017. The GNWT is specifically reviewing the Ptarmigan file to determine how best to negotiate the associated liabilities and costs.

We have done some risk mitigation with respect to the site, including placement of signage to restrict access, erecting a fence surrounding the main structures, placement of a gate, and placement of boulders and ditching completed at another access point, so that work has been done, but no reclamation or remediation activity has actually taken place yet.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that information. Can he tell us, then: have there been any cost estimates prepared for the reclamation/remediation work at Ptarmigan Mine? How much is it going to cost the taxpayers to remediate this site?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can advise that we are still in negotiations with respect to that matter, the situation as to who will be responsible for the liabilities. I believe that I did correspond with the Member opposite. An estimate for the Ptarmigan Mine remediation outlined a cost in excess of \$4 million.

MR. O'REILLY: Again, I would like to thank the Minister for that information. It's not clear how TerraX was able to acquire the mineral rights for the Ptarmigan Mine while it's under remediation, but this would seem to complicate these efforts, as exploration may interfere with the need to restrict access to the site. Drilling and sampling and trenching, that could disturb tailings, covers from vegetation efforts and so on.

I would like to know from the Minister: does GNWT, and/or the federal government for that matter, withdraw the mineral rights for sites that are under remediation such as the Ptarmigan Mine site, and if not, why not?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: With respect to the site referenced by the Member opposite, the Ptarmigan site, mineral rights, rather, were issued prior to devolution by Indian and Northern Affairs, which was responsible for subservice rights and tenure. I understand, under the devolution agreement, our government has to respect existing interests at the time of devolution, including mineral interests that existed at the Ptarmigan site.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. I can tell him, though, that the mineral rights had been

withdrawn underneath Giant Mine, so I don't know why we don't ensure that mineral rights are withdrawn for sites that are being remediated or under consideration for remediation. I want to move on.

TerraX indicates in its news release that it has no responsibility for environmental contamination or remediation of the Ptarmigan Mine site. Can the Minister tell us whether TerraX was given any kind of an indemnity or release by GNWT or Canada in acquiring these mineral rights, and how the company can make such claims in its news release? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I also had the opportunity of looking at the press release, which does contain the line that TerraX has no liability for any remediation of the previous mine site. I can advise that this government has not given an indemnification.

I cannot speak for what the federal government may have done. I do know, however, that press releases by public companies have to be very careful in their assertions. All I can say, again, is that we did not indemnify them with respect to those liabilities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

QUESTION 108-18(3):
PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND P3 INITIATIVES

MR. MCNEELY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I mentioned I was going to be talking about procurement for the P3 projects that this government seems to be leaning more towards in the process of tendering. My question to the Minister of Finance is: can the Minister confirm the GNWT's P3 policy allowance for NWT vendor preference within that policy? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the P3 policy was enacted in May of 2011. I'm not sure the whole contents of the particular policy, but I do know, when they're putting a proposal together and it is presented, there are a number of factors that are taken into consideration. One is choosing a successful proponent. I would have to confirm it, but I think the question that the Member asked would be one of the items that they look at.

MR. MCNEELY: The driven approach for the P3 public/private partnership initiatives is to incorporate a P3 corporation, which this government has done. On our general tendering process, previous governments have incorporated the BIP policy to allow northern preference in giving that extra

advantage to the local seasonal operators of our business community. In the concessionaire agreement that follows as part of the P3 initiative or tenement process, can the Minister confirm whether there's a BIP similar allowance in that concessionary agreement?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I would think not. The P3 projects that we do bring forward are usually very large projects that exceed the \$5 million limit.

MR. MCNEELY: Will the Minister share some of the information on the highlights of the process for the P3 tendering process within the RFP?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'd be happy to, if Members have questions on the P3 process. I would be happy to provide a briefing to the Members or I could have a conversation with the Member from Sahtu. We believe that P3 projects, we've had three of them: one is in the operations phase; one is in the construction phase; and one is actually in the procurement phase. Then we have three that we are looking at a feasibility study/business case for them. We'll continue to provide Members with regular updates on the P3 projects as we go forward.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you. I look forward to the information on the process and the schedules from the Minister. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: I take that as a comment to the Minister. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 109-18(3):
PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure with regard to procurement. A few more around procurement.

Mr. Speaker, I worked for the Housing Corporation for a few years, a number of years ago. Honestly, I was in the department that dealt with procurement on a regular basis. I recognized on an ongoing basis that there were some flawed processes. There was nothing wrong with admitting that, and that there is a need for continual improvement and review in order to improve these process.

Maybe what I'll do is I'll start by asking the Minister: first of all, does he believe that the GNWT procurement practices are fair to begin with? Better yet, what practices does the GNWT incorporate to make sure that our procurement policies are fair? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier said earlier today, they believe this is one of the best policies we have in the Government of the Northwest Territories, and that is BIP. That's one of the first ones in the procurement process that helps Northerners be able to participate in a way that recognizes the high cost of operating in the Northwest Territories and being here. As I said earlier today, we have the community engagement process that's involved in the RFP process to help businesses when they're bidding on the process to add onto BIP, to give them more points basically for northern labour, northern materials suppliers, these sorts of things, with a huge community engagement criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Let's take it another step. I mean, we heard earlier today that a number of MLAs have heard from constituents, in particular businesses in their constituencies that feel that at times things are maybe not as fair as they ought to be. I would like to ask the Minister: if a vendor feels that a procurement policy wasn't fair, what kind of measures does the government have that a vendor can maybe make an appeal, or is there a committee in which a vendor can voice a complaint and be heard?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, that's a great question. Back in 2010, the Auditor General did a review -- or 2009, I believe it was -- did a review of the department. It was brought forward at that time that we should have a vendor complaints system. That was incorporated in 2010. Since 2010 until December 31, 2017, we've had 22 complaints through that process, and only two have ever found merit.

MR. VANTHUYNE: It seems to me they actually are hearing the voice of business after all. It turns out there is a venue in which they can hear some of these complaints. The question becomes: does the public know well enough that they have this option and that there is this portal or this venue in which they can share complaints? Quite frankly, what we are hearing today is that a number of them still haven't been heard.

The Premier alluded to earlier that he is asking us, if there are concerns, to bring them forward. They would be happy to address them. I am wondering if the Minister of Infrastructure once again will turn that around and reach out to the people and hear from them rather than hearing it through MLAs? Will the Minister please undertake a review and do a public consultation to hear what the public has to say about our procurement policies so he can hear it first hand?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I just mentioned, since 2010, we had 22 complaints. That is in eight

years. Two had merit. For example, this year, the last calendar year, we have 362 contracts go through Infrastructure. That is not counting the contracts awarded by Infrastructure on behalf of other departments. Put this into context, we had 362 contracts valued at \$136 million. As I have stated in this House, I have had two or three people come directly to me about the process and complaining about it. The vendor complaint process clearly shows there is not an issue. Twenty-two people complained since 2010, and two have had merit.

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

QUESTION 110-18(3):
PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. TESTART: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Infrastructure. I want to get into this issue of payment and prompt payment in particular. I have previously raised this issue in the House. There is movement in our country on making this process fairer, more transparent, and more timely for subcontractors and businesses who benefit from government procurement, especially in the construction industry.

Three of the sections set out in Ontario's new Construction Lien Act set out that the owner's payment obligation is transferred down to the contractor. The contractor's obligation is then transferred down to its subcontractor. The subcontractor's obligations are down to their subcontractors. In a sense, when payment is received, it moves down the chain, and there is a legal basis for it to move down the chain. We don't run into payment issues of people down the line. Has the Minister completed his review of that legislation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct. He brought it up in the House last year. Since then, the Department of Infrastructure has introduced a prompt payment issue to the Procedures Working Committee. They are having a look at this thing. Ontario has just recently passed this prompt payment legislation. They are the only ones in Canada who have done it. The federal government is having a look at doing this. We are continuing to monitor both of them moving forward.

At the same time, we have also reached out to the Construction Association of the Northwest Territories on prompt-payment issues. They never got back to us on if it is an issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: I have a constituent who is a subcontractor and did not receive payment from a government contract. It is an issue. I can tell the Minister that. It is an issue. I will give him the full details when we are out of the Chamber. The Government of Canada is doing more than looking at it. There is a bill called the Canada Prompt Payment Act currently in first reading. Is the Minister willing to develop a legislative proposal and to share that proposal with the standing committee so we can get to work on prompt payment legislation here in the Northwest Territories?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I have stated, we have put this to the working committee. I have reached out to the Northern Construction Association. Based on one person, again, am I willing to make legislation? Possibly. I am willing to sit down with the Construction Association and see if this is something that is of utter importance that needs to be done in a timely manner, to have a look at it. As of right now, with one person, I am not ready to move on legislation.

MR. TESTART: When you combine prompt-payment issues with progress-payment issues with all of these payment issues, it seems there is a payment problem. Should I, as a private Member, bring forward a bill that would support a prompt-payment regime, would the government be in a position to support that legislation so we can get some work done in this House?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I can't control if the Member wants to bring a private Member's bill forward. I have said we have recognized this. We have reached out to the Northern Construction Association. We are monitoring what Ontario is doing. The federal government is pushing theirs through their House.

As far as progress payments go, that is a totally different issue than prompt payment. Progress payment seems to be an issue around the manufacturers' goods. We are coming forward with a manufacturers' strategy, a "what we heard" document. If that is an issue in those documents, then we will sit down and have that discussion.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the manufacturing strategy doesn't include a section on progress payments, prompt payments, and doesn't include a clear policy direction in that strategy to resolve this issue. Thank you.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: We went out and talked to all the manufacturers in the Northwest Territories. We have gone to all the regions and

had this discussion. I will be tabling in this Assembly, in this session, the "what we heard" report around the manufacturers' strategy. I haven't even had a close look at it myself yet. I suspect that, if this is an issue with the manufacturers, it will be in the "what we heard" report. We will have a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to visitors in the gallery. With us is Mr. David Ramsay, former Minister and former Member. Welcome. I would also like to recognize a constituent from Behchoko, Louis Chinkon, who is here with us. Masi for coming. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 111-18(3):
SPORTS AND RECREATION FUNDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I was asking questions of the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I would like to follow up with some follow-up questions. In the 2017-2018 budget, can the Minister advise how much money the department has given to municipal governments for recreation and if the money differs from community to community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the money does differ between communities. In the budget, we had \$825,000 in sports and recreation funding that we annually give to the community governments. Depending on the community size, et cetera, they range between \$15,000 and \$85,000 in sports and recreation funding annually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: The Minister talked about \$8.3 million into the recreation fund, \$4.7 from Western Lotteries and \$3.6 from the other areas. Can the Minister advise: does the department consider programs such as Youth Corps, Youth Contribution, and Youth Centre as programs for recreation funding?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: No. The department doesn't consider funding provided through the youth programs as sports and recreation funding. Those are treated as separate budgets and have separate program delivery.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess I am going to have to sit down with the Minister and get a clear understanding of where this money is, because I don't think the numbers are crunching together as they should. My last question: does the department consider Children

and Youth Resiliency Program as a recreation program or something different?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: No, the department doesn't consider the Children and Youth Resiliency Program as part of its total for sports and recreation funding.

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

QUESTION 112-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING
CORPORATION PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation on the procurement of their projects. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister if the NWT Housing Corporation uses BIP? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the NWT Housing Corporation does use the BIP process as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: In my community of Fort Resolution, there are many very highly skilled individuals who can build houses and do all kinds of things. An example is in most big projects in the community, like the health centre that was just recently completed, I think they had one or possibly two people from outside the community, and the entire health centre was built, but they can't seem to get to work on the houses. Most of the housing projects go to members from outside the community. They come in because there are some people having difficulty getting BIP or some liability insurance, and so on. Would the Minister consider using a contribution agreement with a local organization, whether it be the hamlet, the band, the Metis, using contribution agreements to deliver projects to the community members in Fort Resolution?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation does try to work with communities. We do try to support local labour. Sometimes, though, the proposals that come in are just not doable; their bids are actually not reasonable. So sometimes we do have to go outside of the community. We do try to stay within the Northwest Territories, though, so again, we do try to support the communities as much as possible. We will look at negotiated contracts under the Negotiated Contracts Policy to actually help communities to build up their capacity; not for large corporations that have been in business for many,

many years, but for organizations that are trying to get a head start.

MR. BEAULIEU: I'm just asking, not for a negotiated contract, but rather something a little bit different, something that's probably common and doable with the Housing Corporation, to sign a contribution agreement with the community, whether it be the NWT Housing Corporation's own agency, the Fort Resolution Housing Authority, or the band, or the Metis. I think a contribution agreement is kind of two-fold; first, it's going to create employment for the local people, and secondly, it's going to actually get the projects done for the community. It's just that, when it goes to a neighbouring community, then the contractor will make two trips in, and then the money's gone. So I'd like to ask the Minister if she would take a closer look at the system of having the money flow through a contribution agreement or a local organization?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated, we do try to support local labour, whenever possible; sometimes it's not doable. We have committed. I mean, we do learn from previous mistakes; we're trying to better the programs so that people have better access to housing and better work experiences. So there are some things we're doing. We're doing a community initiative program that works with Aboriginal and municipal governments, in partnership, to deal with issues in their community; everybody having something in the pot. We are looking at individual community plans, such as we've done with Fort Good Hope, which was one of our first ones, actually. So within that community, we're looking at their needs, specifically, and how we can work better.

The Hay River Reserve, we're working with Chief Fabian, to see how we can support labour in his community, because they haven't had a chance. We worked with Salt River First Nations to develop housing needs. So we are trying to work with the communities as best as possible, but recognizing that sometimes we can't support local labour. If they come in, if I have a two-bedroom housing unit, which I did one time, that I put out for tender, and the bids were coming in at over a \$1 million, I can't accept that, Mr. Speaker. So they have to be reasonable. I want to be reasonable, but I also need people to be reasonable.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have very reasonable people in Fort Resolution. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Housing Corporation has a method in which they can do contribution agreements. Now, the Minister is correct that they're moving in that direction, and we're not

talking about bidding on houses. Unreasonable bids, bids to lose contracts, I'm not talking about those. I'm actually talking about mostly elders in the community who are homeowners, where they need help, and when they go in with the size of the project that the Housing Corporation has to offer, it usually takes two small trips in from a contractor from outside the community and then money's gone. So then the elder has to wait one more year in order to then apply again. You see, that is unreasonable, actually. So I'd like to ask the Minister if the Minister would work with me to work with the community -- it's not only for Fort Resolution; I represent four communities -- to work with me to see if a contribution method would be a way that we could get the projects completed for the elders in the riding of Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I agree. It's totally unreasonable that people who are homeowners are people who can't access services. I heard a story once when I first started that somebody had applied in one of the smaller communities, and it may have been the honourable MLA's communities, had applied for some repair programs, and we gave them a grant of \$10,000. By the time they paid for their contractor to come in, stay, travel, stay in their community, they got a kitchen sink for \$10,000, Mr. Speaker. That is not okay, and that is not reasonable. In order to address that in a reasonable way, I have changed the program, Mr. Speaker, so that, if we do give people a \$10,000 grant, the contractor's costs are outside that \$10,000. The \$10,000 will be put directly into services so that the next time I won't hear that their kitchen sink cost \$10,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Time for oral questions has expired. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to the orders of the day, point number five, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (reversion)

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I'd like to recognize my oldest son; not my favourite son, my oldest son. As he says all the time, it's my favourite son, but I have to correct that. I'd like to recognize my son, Gordon Thompson, in the Assembly today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Gordon, you just have to work harder at it. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to take this opportunity to recognize and welcome Yellowknife North constituent, former Member and former Minister Dave Ramsay.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to the Commissioner's opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address, day 5 of 7. Member for Sahtu.

Replies to Budget Address

MR. MCNEELY'S REPLY

MR. MCNEELY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The annual budgets of the Government of the Northwest Territories are basically covering two major areas: number one, operations and maintenance; number two, capital spending for upgrades of our continuous infrastructure. Our capital spending helps provide investment certainty for the businesses that operate within our territory, as well as investors.

The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to face many challenges with aging infrastructure, aging assets, building new infrastructure, modernizing our regulatory systems, unforeseen expenditures resulting from the impacts of climate change, and we need to maintain public confidence in our delivery of programs and services.

The principle of government, Mr. Speaker, outside of normal day-to-day operations is to develop resources using responsible practices. These include a sound regulatory system, regime, modernizing legislation, public engagement, and, most importantly, working with the Indigenous landowners. Only with our vision for prosperity in the Northwest Territories, prudent and proper targets for our work, independence, and sound investment will we achieve our destiny.

Encouraging and expanding industry's presence in the North is achievable if we have a fair regulatory climate and effective land-access systems. Industry's presence creates royalties and corporate income taxes as well as meaningful jobs. Corporations also provide meaningful benefits directly to the communities. One only has to look at the \$500,000 for school books for Indigenous youth; \$600,000 to assist the construction of the Kimberlite Career and Technical Centre here in Yellowknife; as well as the \$100,000 cement floor for the Lutselk'e arena, just to name a few.

It is important that we train northern workers for the jobs in industry. The Government of Canada contributes to the Mine Training Society, which runs a variety of programs to develop staff for the resource sector and to improve the safety knowledge of the workplace.

Creating a vibrant, sustainable economy means balancing the needs of our remote northern communities, regional centres, and the capital city while maintaining affordable programs and services for both residents and governments. We might view these as fixed income for our territory. Spending by government helps to sustain us as well as provide economy confidence.

Mr. Speaker, the 2018-2019 budget address forecasted \$84 million less in revenue than the first year of our term. This can be attributed to the world commodity prices beyond our control, tax decisions by corporations operating here, and temporary closure of the Enbridge line 21, which triggered the stop-work order for the production of the Norman Wells oil field.

I voiced my support for the repair of this pipeline at the public hearings, last October and this past January, of the National Energy Board and the Northwest Territories Land and Water Board. Now it seems the pipeline repair will proceed, adding \$53 million in replacement and repair expenditures to the local economy over a five-month period. In addition to the repair, royalty revenues will resume after the operations start up again and oil begins to flow. This is a prime example of our regulatory system in collaboration with all stakeholders, including local Indigenous communities, including the supports for industry.

Collaboration is needed for the health of our economy and our government's revenue. We live and work in a remote area with high costs for almost everything we need and everything we do, but our distance from the rest of the world does not free us from the pressures of global pricing. These are very real challenges for industry and for our government.

Our government also faces the challenge of replacing aging infrastructure and assets. We can only put off that kind of spending for as long as again. Again, it is the question of balancing figuring out how to keep our programs and services as well as meet the needs of our infrastructure.

It is pretty clear that our government cannot satisfy every need with the resources it has at hand. It is just not possible. Priorities had to be set, and we have done the best we could. Both Regular MLAs and our Cabinet friends across from us have worked very hard on the business plans that led up to Budget 2018-2019. Everything considered, the

budget we have before us is not as bad as one would think. We might polish the edges a little bit, and we certainly need to work with the Government of Canada to get additional resources with the programs announced. I would not recommend increasing taxes until we have exhausted all options available. It would only discourage the small northern communities which are struggling to meet the day-to-day challenges of growth as well as looking after their families. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Replies to budget address, day 5 of 7. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. The Honourable Premier.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 76-18(3):
WE ARE ONE MIND - PERSPECTIVES FROM
EMERGING INDIGENOUS LEADERS ON THE
ARCTIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table to following document released by the Dene Nahjo, a report prepared with the Gordon Foundation entitled "We are One Mind - Perspectives from Emerging Indigenous Leaders on the Arctic Policy Framework." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 77-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SURFACE RIGHTS
BOARD 2017-2018 BUDGET, STRATEGIC PLAN,
BUSINESS PLAN AND FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board 2017-2018 Budget, Strategic Plan, Business Plan and Five-Year Forecast." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 78-18(3):
MANY WAYS TO LOSE A BILLION - HOW
GOVERNMENTS FAIL TO SECURE A FAIR
SHARE OF NATURAL RESOURCE WEALTH, BY
DON HUBERT, PHD, FOR PUBLISH WHAT YOU
PAY CANADA

TABLED DOCUMENT 79-18(3):
PRESS RELEASE BY RESPONSIBLE MINING
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - NGOS
ENCOURAGE GNWT TO PRODUCE MODERN
MINING LEGISLATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 80-18(3):
A NEW SHARED ARCTIC LEADERSHIP MODEL,
FROM MARY SIMON, SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTER OF
INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS
CANADA, SUBMITTED MARCH 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to table the following three documents: number one, "Many Ways to Lose a Billion - How Governments Fail to Secure a Fair Share of Natural Resource Wealth, by Don Hubert, PhD, for Publish What You Pay Canada"; "Press Release by Responsible Mining Northwest Territories - NGOs Encourage GNWT to Produce Modern Mining Legislation"; and the last document, Mr. Speaker, is "A New Shared Arctic Leadership Model, from Mary Simon, Special Representative of Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Submitted March 2017." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents.

TABLED DOCUMENT 81-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CONFLICT OF
INTEREST COMMISSIONER ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR 2017

MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 99 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I hereby table the Northwest Territories Conflict of Interest Commissioner Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly for 2017.

Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns; Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process; Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the Chairman leave the chair to report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will 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 Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns; Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process; and Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019. I would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do we have a seconder? Member for Deh Cho. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed. Motion carried.

---Carried

Masi. Item 23, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, the orders of the day for Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.:

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

17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

18. Motions

- Motion 9-18(3), Extended Adjournment of the House to February 20, 2018

19. First Reading of Bills

20. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns
- Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process
- Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019

22. Report of Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:19 p.m.