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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, October 26, 2018****Members Present**

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

The House met at 10:00 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good morning, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 116-18(3):
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE AURORA
COLLEGE FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW**

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, later today, I will table the Government Response to the Findings and Recommendations of the Aurora College Foundational Review marking an end of a year-long review process.

This review has provided an opportunity to step back and evaluate where we are today and where we need to be in the future. Post-secondary education is essential to the growth and prosperity of our territory, and Aurora College continues to play a critical role in providing residents with options for obtaining that education in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, in order to better meet student needs and changing labour market demands, it has been determined that Aurora College requires significant change.

I am pleased to announce that the government will soon begin the process of transforming Aurora College into a polytech university. A polytech university combines the practical approach of a college education and the depth of study associated with a university program. Polytech programs are hands-on and technology-based, providing students with practical training for in-demand jobs.

The new institution would continue to focus mainly on applied and technical programs, as has been the case with Aurora College in the past, but with a wider range of qualifications available to students. At polytech institutions, students have the

opportunity to bridge certificate and diploma credentials into bachelor's degrees, allowing for a great deal of flexibility within a defined range of academic programs.

At the same time, we have not forgotten the urgent need for more immediate incremental changes to Aurora College. We must strengthen the foundations of Aurora College as we prepare for transformational change in order to ensure the institution remains effective, efficient, and sustainable, and that it meets the needs of students and industry, both now and into the future.

As the Minister responsible, I am accountable for Aurora College and overseeing the transformation process. We have begun forging a new path forward, and I remain committed to ensuring we achieve greater public transparency and accountability at Aurora College throughout the transformation period and at the new polytechnic university moving forward. Decisions must be properly informed and follow national best practices.

An overarching priority of the transformation will also be to maintain a strong institution with three vibrant campuses, each with quality programs that are sustainable and that use and build on the assets of the communities where they are located. We will also be strengthening our 21 Community Learning Centres. The Community Learning Centres will continue to be a vital part of the institution moving forward.

I remain committed to preparing the new institution to function at arm's length from government as was universally supported by stakeholders. Such autonomy is a defining "best practice" of public post-secondary institutions in Canada. Achieving this requires a necessary balance as the right mix of public accountability and operational independence is essential to the institutions long-term success.

Mr. Speaker, I will be working with the new associate deputy minister to guide the college's transformation into a polytechnic university. One of the first steps will include developing an overall vision for post-secondary education in the North and bringing forward the legislation to make it a reality.

Rather than starting from scratch, we will build on existing Aurora College infrastructure, programming, and human resources. This will allow for a fiscally responsible rate of growth.

The review report included 67 recommendations, and the government response either partially or fully accepted all 67 of them. Some of the key commitments include:

- the hiring of an associate deputy minister for Post-secondary Education Renewal;
- development of a vision for post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories;
- establishing an advisory committee and an academic advisory council to ensure the college continues to function well during a successful transformation; and
- developing an implementation plan to guide the transformation of Aurora College into a polytechnic university.

We also remain on track to implement a new legislative framework during the life of this Assembly to govern post-secondary education. The primary objective of this new legislation will be to create a process of recognition that ensures the effective governance and quality assurance of post-secondary institutions and their programs.

During the life of this Assembly, we will have achieved a great deal in regard to post-secondary education and are embarking on a new and exciting path forward. There is still a great deal of work ahead, but when the 18th Legislative Assembly concludes next year, I believe we can all say with confidence that we have done more to advance post-secondary education than any previous Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited by the path ahead for Aurora College and the opportunities a polytechnic university will provide to our residents, communities, industry, and economy in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 117-18(3):
2018 WILDLAND FIRE SEASON

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 2018 fire season was well below average for the Northwest Territories. A total of 56 fires were reported, affecting 13,222 hectares. In comparison, there were 249 fires and just over 860,000 hectares burned in 2017. The 25-year average is 231 fires and about 686,000 hectares burned each fire season.

As a government, it is important for us to be able to provide assistance to other Canadian jurisdictions, as many of them have helped us during previous wildland fire seasons. The relatively inactive fire season allowed Northwest Territories personnel and resources to be exported to assist with wildland fire response in other jurisdictions facing extensive wildland fires.

A total of 76 Type-1 firefighters, 19 overhead staff and three air tanker groups were sent to British Columbia, Ontario, Alberta, Yukon, Saskatchewan, and various national parks throughout the fire season.

Crews that remained in the territory this summer carried out important wildland fire management, maintenance, and FireSmart activities. They cleared brush, cleaned up fire breaks, managed overgrown vegetation, and constructed helipads to ensure future protection of our communities and infrastructure.

Within the South Slave region, the communities of Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Providence benefit from clearing and brushing activities concentrated in both the communities and along highways and around fire towers. In and around the community of Fort Simpson, fire crews continued FireSmart work around the Wild Rose subdivision, clearing and removing trees. They also did brush and tree removal in the Fort Simpson Campground and widened the community wood lot access road, so that residents can have better access to fire wood.

Within the Sahtu communities of Deline, Tulita, and Fort Good Hope, work primarily concentrated on improving existing community fuel breaks by making them wider and clearing brush.

In Fort McPherson, the crew completed five helipads near water sources along the fuel breaks near the community. In Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik, fire crews concentrated on improving the areas around weather stations, radio towers, and various patrol and fire bases.

In the North Slave region, in addition to completing a number of FireSmart activities, the Department held a FireSmart workshop at Pontoon Lake that was well attended and received by the public.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the integrity and hard work shown by our wildland fire personnel this fire season, both at home and while assisting other jurisdictions.

Environment and Natural Resources fire crews continue to provide professional service to our residents and as representatives of our government while serving elsewhere.

The Government of Northwest Territories continues to work with communities on risk assessment and hazard mitigation to identify priority areas for protection planning in the face of possible wildland fire. Earlier this year, we saw the Hamlet of Enterprise become the first certified FireSmart community in the Northwest Territories. We hope the example they have set as leaders in community protection will be a model for forested communities across the territory.

Taking FireSmart actions continues to be the most important and effective way residents can protect their values at risk from wildland fires. It is everyone's responsibility to FireSmart their home and cabin and to promote the FireSmart program in their community.

This winter, we are asking those heading out to their cabins to take time to FireSmart their property. Clearing vegetation around the cabin by cutting firewood close to home and keeping the area around the cabin free of combustible materials can go a long way in protecting from wildland fire.

Mr. Speaker, this season, only three fires are suspected to have been person-caused. I would like to thank the majority of our residents for remembering to choose secure locations to make fires for cooking and keeping warm, and for making sure those fires were out before leaving. I would also like to recognize the work of our staff in getting vital messaging in fire prevention out to our communities.

As is our usual practice, Fire Operations has debriefed with headquarters and the regions on how the season went during our annual fall fire managers meeting in Fort Smith last month. The meeting was an important opportunity to share lessons learned, report on the season, and develop winter work plans. In the spring, we will hold our annual pre-season meeting to ensure we are properly prepared for the upcoming fire season.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all our fire personnel. From the fire crews out on the fire line, to our radio operators, the air attack officers, to those doing logistics and planning, and to everyone who worked hard this summer to protect both our residents and our neighbours to the south. Your commitment and efforts are appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EXPANSION OF ECOLE ALLAIN ST-CYR

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. [English translation not provided.] Merci, Monsieur le President.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES IN THE SAHTU REGION

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing positive results from the SIP panel models in the energy-efficient homes recently seen in four Sahtu communities.

Mr. Speaker, this model can prove and is seeing reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and support our local manufacturing industry.

The four units, as mentioned, in the Sahtu have seen fuel reduction in the neighbourhood of 30 percent. These cost savings are then passed on to the tenants, a truly win-win example of innovation. Later I will have questions for the appropriate Minister. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2018: INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT – CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, like many Members of this House were shocked by the findings of the Auditor General's full audit of Health and Social Services' child and family services work. Not merely as a legislator as I'm concerned by this clear lack of oversight on the part of the Minister, I'm appalled as a parent.

Mr. Speaker, Members on this side of the House will do their work with both the Auditor General and departmental officials when we conduct our formal review of this report. However, I am concerned about the accountability of the Minister of Health and Social Services on this matter.

The government clearly has blatant disregard for the well-being of children in the Northwest Territories. How such failures of oversight by the Minister could be overlooked, not just for four years but a continued passing of the buck arguably since 1998.

In 2000, the Child Welfare League of Canada recommended the development of case-load

standards, which is still incomplete. After the 2014 audit, the league was commissioned to do workload management study to help identify what resources were required to deliver child and family services. Still, Mr. Speaker, the Minister has failed to act on these recommendations. The work is still not finished.

We know the department officials were only tasked to assess their financial and human resources needs towards the end of the 2018 audit period. The Minister cannot pass the buck to his senior administrative staff, as they are newer to this portfolio than he is.

The auditors were informed that departmental officials had focused their efforts on implementing the structured decision-making system as their top priority in order to address the concerns of the previous audit, and it comes with little surprise that most of the frontline workers who met with the auditors informed them that they had not received sufficient training to support them in using these tools.

To clarify, Mr. Speaker, in 2000, recommendations were put forward, and then ignored. In 2014, an audit was conducted by the OAG and was ignored. The same year, another audit was conducted by the league, and that was ignored. We are now in 2018, and this new Auditor General candid report in hand cannot be ignored, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions for the Minister on his accountability on this file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PASSING OF GLENDA COMEAU

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to pay tribute to Glenda Comeau. She was born on May 1, 1951, in Ontario.

Glenda dedicated her career in the NWT to serve the RCMP. For the past 15 years, Glenda, as a public servant, was the first point of contact for many people coming into the Fort Simpson RCMP detachment. Regardless of the reason for needing the RCMP, Glenda was always kind, courteous, and professional.

Glenda's true commitment, however, was to the members. She went above and beyond the requirements of her position to ensure that the members were well taken care of. Officers who were posted to the Fort Simpson detachment were often pleasantly surprised to discover that she had gotten them all of the accessories that made it easier to do their jobs. She also made sure, to the delight of many, that the staff room was always

well-stocked with snacks. In many ways, Glenda considered the members to be her children and acted like a mother figure for them.

Born and raised in Ontario, Glenda was working at a hotel in High Level, Alberta, as a receptionist when she answered a newspaper job posting for public servants for the RCMP. She started her career in the Inuvik detachment, where she spent five years.

In 2002, Glenda moved to Fort Simpson to fulfill the public servant position with the village detachment. Glenda was recognized many times during her career for her dedication and professionalism, including in 2007, when she received the Commanding Officer's Certificate of Appreciation. Prior to her retirement last year, Glenda was presented with a Long Service Certificate recognizing 20 years of dedicated service to the Government of Canada, as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Certificate of Northern Services, which is awarded to recognize service in the NWT.

Although she had planned to spend her retirement in Ontario, Glenda found that she couldn't leave the North. After a few months in the South, she returned to Fort Simpson. Glenda passed away in the village on July 6, 2008. A memorial service, attended by her friends and some RCMP members that she had worked with over the years, was held in Fort Simpson on August 2nd. Glenda's professionalism and dedication to supporting the RCMP will be sadly missed by many.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Glenda since she moved to Fort Simpson, and like others, I will miss her smiling face, wise words of advice, and her humour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences to the family as well. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PASSING OF FORT RESOLUTION RESIDENTS
CAROL VALETTE, CAMERON SAYINE GIROUX
AND JODY GIROUX

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to do a bit of a eulogy on people that passed away this summer in Fort Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2018, Carol Valette, wife to Frankie Beaulieu, passed away. Carol had an adoptive daughter, Tisha, and a stepdaughter named Joslyn, three granddaughters, and two grandsons. Carol was 69 years old. She was very well-liked by the community. She chose to make

Fort Resolution her home when she moved there from Alberta.

On that same day, Mr. Speaker, the community lost a young man, Cameron Sayine Giroux. Cameron passed away that day, also, July 1, 2018. Cameron was the son of Raymond Giroux, and his mother was the late Colleen Sayine. Cameron was a grandson of a former Member of this Legislative Assembly, Robert Sayine and his wife, May Sayine. He was also a grandson to the late Wilfred and Elizabeth Giroux. Cameron was only 27 years old and passed away unexpectedly and suddenly.

On August 20, 2018, the community lost Jody Giroux. Jody and Cameron were first cousins. Jody was the daughter to Linda Mckay, and the late Grant Giroux was his father. Jody's sisters are Kerry Giroux and Belinda Mandeville, Stacy Giroux, and her brothers were Sean Mckay and Grant Giroux Jr. She was predeceased by one brother, Lloyd Giroux. She was a granddaughter to Denise Mckay and well-known late elder Edward Mckay. She was also a granddaughter to Wilfred and Elizabeth Giroux. Jody was born on August 31, 1980, and when she passed away, she was only 37 years old, a few days before her 38th birthday.

It was a sad summer for the community of Fort Resolution to lose a beloved elder and to lose two young people in our community long before their time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Again, our condolences to the families and also to the community. Members' statements. Member for Hay River North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FUTURE OF CONSENSUS GOVERNMENT

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this week, I didn't know that today we would wind up at a pivotal point in this Assembly that may determine the future of our consensus style of government.

On one hand, the report of the Auditor General of Canada has presented us with concrete evidence of a significant and unacceptable failure on the part of the government, under the watch of, seemingly, the most competent Minister. We have also been faced with a shipping fiasco for which no one is taking responsibility. Further, the questioning of multiple Ministers this week has left many with the impression that Cabinet either does not respect the role of the Regular Members or does not understand consensus government.

On the other hand, the Member for Kam Lake has indicated that he will bring forward legislation to officially bring political parties into this legislature and allow those parties to spend money promoting

candidates in excess of what independent candidates can spend. Passage of these changes would signal the end of our style of government.

The question is: is consensus government worth saving? We are faced with a situation where a lack of action means a lack of accountability, and it is putting our system to the test. I will have questions for the Premier about whether he will keep his Ministers accountable or if we have to do it for him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to a couple of the Pages that are here with us today that we have from the Tlicho region. From Behchoko, we have Treyanna Weyallon and Leegah Lafferty, who are here with us. I would like to thank them for being here with us, and also to the other Pages as well, who are doing such a fantastic job for us. Masi.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Josee Clermont, who is a resident of Yellowknife North and, also, the director general of College nordique francophone. Welcome, and thank you for being here.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome to the gallery Katie Johnson, who does great work with the Literacy Council here in Yellowknife. She is one of my constituents and neighbours.

I am also pleased to welcome the Chynoweth family, Peter and Sharon Chynoweth, their daughter Heather Black, and grandson Kieran Black, who are with us today. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to recognize a constituent of Frame Lake and a neighbour, Kathryn Barry Paddock, who does great work with the NWT Literacy Council. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Josee Clermont, who is the executive director of College nordique. It's great that we work together and I am looking forward to further partnerships.

I also want to recognize, if they are still up there, we should have a group of grade six students from William McDonald coming to learn about our consensus government, so I'm excited to have them here as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we are missing anyone in the gallery, thanks for being here with us. It's always great to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgments. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Acknowledgments

ACKNOWLEDGMENT 14-18(3):
RETIREMENT OF UNITED CHURCH MINISTER
PETER CHYNOWETH

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of the Reverend Peter Chynoweth who is retiring from active ministry. During 28 years of service with the United Church of Canada, Peter guided the Yellowknife Church to become an affirming ministry, served as president of the Yellowknife Ministerial Association, chaplain for RCMP "G" Division, led monthly worship for residents at Avens, and has been a strong advocate of social justice issues. Please join me in saluting the service and achievements of Peter Chynoweth. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 454-18(3):
STATUS OF VACANT LAND SPECIALIST
POSITIONS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's been about six months since the new fiscal year and the budget has been passed. I would like to ask the Minister of Lands some questions about the status of the equity lease issues. Can the Minister advise if the positions have been filled and the location of where the staff is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise that three land specialist positions have

been filled or about to be filled, one in Inuvik, one in Fort Simpson starting November 5, 2018, and the third will be starting in North Slave on November 13, 2018. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: I appreciate the answer from the Minister. Because, if it was passed, it would be five positions, can the Minister advise us when these other positions will be filled and location where these positions are supposed to be located?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The two remaining positions are in Fort Smith. I'm not certain when they will be filled, but we will certainly advise the Member opposite.

MR. THOMPSON: I appreciate that from the Minister. I'm hoping these positions can get filled sooner than later. Has the department completed or have they developed a training plan for the staff? Can the Minister advise us of what that training plan is?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the current lands specialist has been involved in training opportunities to help facilitate the work in the Beaufort-Delta and Sahtu regions, which of course are settled regions. We are going to continue to provide training and support as we move forward. I will again keep the Member advised as to the hires that we are hoping to make and also the training.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I greatly appreciate the Minister's answer and informing us as we move forward.

During the process, we talked about the positions, that you have to be in Fort Smith and doing a training in there. Is this the process for doing the training, or has the department come up with a newer way of doing it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I'm not certain as to the exact nature of the training, but we could certainly look into that. As I have mentioned, we have hired somebody in the Inuvik office, and we are starting to deal with the equity leases in that region. Of course, as I have mentioned, there are 245 approximately equity leases to deal with, so there's a large number. Those are private-equity leases. There are similar, as I understand, from the department, leases between departments, but the ones that we are dealing with and we are concerned about are the private-equity leases.

Certainly, there will be training. Each of these or many of these leases do seem to be slightly different and moving forward, will depend on the terms of these leases. I will certainly keep the

Member opposite advised as to hires as they take place and also the nature of the training given to these people. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 455-18(3):
RESOURCES FOR CHILD AND FAMILY
SERVICES

MS. GREEN: Masi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. As I said in my statement yesterday on the Auditor General's report on Child and Family Services, the lack of staff and resources is a theme that runs through that report. This lack of resources is jeopardizing the safety of children and care. The Minister has committed to hiring more staff. Will he work with the Finance Minister to bring forward a supplementary appropriation before the end of this sitting? Mahsi.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have gone through the business planning process. We are proposing the increase of positions in this area. In the meantime, I have directed the department to begin staffing in anticipation of the passage of those positions so that we can hit the ground running today to start filling those positions. We have tools and mechanisms available to us, double filling positions, anticipatory hiring, eligibility list. We are doing that work now. I will have a discussion with the Minister, I'm happy to do that, about whether or not we can expedite that given the crisis that is in front of us.

As a note, in response to our internal audit that was completed in May, we have actually moved forward with re-profiling some positions and the establishment of positions within the authority. For instance, we have established seven foster-parent coordinator positions, and we have filled four of them already. We have already started taking action, based on our audit, and our audit was reconfirmed by the Auditor General. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, it's hard to recruit and retain social workers because the work is so grueling. I'm not surprised that there are many vacant positions. What I would like to know from the Minister is what he is doing to strengthen the recruitment and retention of social workers.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I have actually been having conversations with some of our front-line staff to try to get a determination as to

some of the frustrations they feel. Part of the frustration they feel is that, with the implementation of Building Stronger Families, they were asked to do an awful lot, both provide their duties and services they did prior to implementation but also learn and test an entire new system. It has made them a little thin. They have said they want more training. They have said they want better contact and involvement in making decisions. They want to be able to know that their voices are heard.

We have actually actioned every one of the issues that they have raised, following up on our May 2017 audit, and we have already started to see some improvements. I had a conversation with a couple of them last week who said they haven't felt this supported since pre-implementation of Building Stronger Families. They are excited by the direction we are going and excited by the direction we are taking.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General found, as the Minister has said, that staff is overburdened with administrative work. The Minister's decision to engage in a system-wide accreditation exercise next year is going to increase that burden substantially at a time when the focus needs to be on building relationships with children and families. Will the Minister consider deferring this audit for at least a year?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: This audit isn't an audit of Social Services or Child and Family Services. This is an audit of the entire Health and Social Services system. It is an accreditation, rather, of the entire Health and Social Services system. It needs to be done. We will certainly work closely with the CFS division to make sure that the burden placed on them is as low as possible. We will bring in extra staff if we need to, to help them through this time.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was a time when Social Services was a stand-alone department within the GNWT. It is my impression that since the current department was created many years ago, that Child and Family Services has played second fiddle to the health side of the department. I would say that this approach to the accreditation reveals that, as well. Is it time to divide the department so that each segment gets the attention it deserves? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That question has been asked and debated many times in this House. What we have learned over the years is that in order to provide holistic care, we need to make sure that our social services side is working closely and cooperatively with the health and social services side. Moving to a single authority and moving

forward with our Cultural Competency Action Plan has given us the opportunity to move in a more client-focused delivery model here in the Northwest Territories, which brings social services staff as well as health practitioners together to do holistic healing.

If we start breaking them up, we will start creating silos, more so than exist today. In the last number of months since May, we have been working incredibly hard to break down the silos that exist within our authority in this particular area. We are already seeing some progress in that area, in the collaboration of working together of both sides of the system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 456-18(3):
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The Minister has been in his office for five years and, before that, was a member of the Standing Committee of Social Programs that undertook a comprehensive review of Child and Family Services. Given the Minister's clear experience and interest in this file, why has he not made correcting the deficiencies in Child and Family Services his top priority as Minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Health and Social Services portfolio is a significantly large portfolio, and there are many different competing priorities and demands. The Member is assuming that I haven't made child and family services a priority. This is an area that has been important to me since before I was an MLA.

When I became the Minister of Health and Social Services, I was deeply disturbed to find out that no progress, zero, had been made on the implementation of the recommendations put forward by the standing committee. I made it a priority to move on all of those recommendations and directed the department at the time to start implementing those recommendations through Building Stronger Families. Building Stronger Families also incorporated the 11 recommendations from the Auditor General at the time, remembering that some of those recommendations actually talk about fixing the foundation and putting in the tools that are necessary to support our employees at the front line.

I heard clearly from residents and heard clearly from staff during those initial reviews that things like our Child and Family Information System was garbage and did not allow them to do their reporting in a way that needed to be done. I have brought forward budget asks on this file to both implement the structured decision-making tools and customize them to the Northwest Territories as well as a budget to bring in Matrix, which is our new information system in Child and Family Services.

That information system came in last year. Already, it has given us the ability to report on things that we have never had the capacity to do so that we can do real-time quality assessments. We are doing those today and providing those results to our front-line staff so they know where there are challenges and they are able to address those challenges immediately as opposed to waiting another year until another audit comes out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: The Auditor General, as my honourable friend from Yellowknife Centre has mentioned, found that these new administrative structures that the Minister has spoken about have not improved service delivery. In fact, these complex changes have turned it into an overburdened system, continues to leave children vulnerable. It sounds like the Minister was personally involved with approving these changes. What has his follow-up been on seeing if they are actually working given what is said in the Auditor General's report and in the department's own internal audit report?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In addition to the work we did rolling out Building Stronger Families, we did make significant legislative changes to allow this new delivery of child and family services to become a reality. Building Stronger Families moves us from an apprehension-based system, which has traditionally been the system provided in the Northwest Territories and across Canada, to a system that the people of the Northwest Territories told us they wanted. They wanted a prevention-based system that focused on families while at the same time protecting children.

We made a number of legislative challenges. One of them that we made that, you know, is questionable at this point, even though it was still the right thing to do, is we actually increased our requirement to report. We were having difficulty reporting. We increased our requirement to report because it is the right thing to do. Then, we put in the tools so that they can actually do that reporting. Matrix didn't come in until last year. The audits that we have done have all been for years prior to that.

We are making a fundamental shift, and we have. This work that we are doing could not be possible

without laying the foundation stones, which includes the SDM, Matrix, and the legislation we put forward. When we released Building Stronger Families, I said clearly it is going to take us a couple years to build the foundation. We hadn't anticipated, at that time, that we would have this kind of response and this difficulty at the front end delivering, but we accept that that was our responsibility.

We did not reach out to our front-line staff and manage the change as effectively as we should have. We have heard from our staff. They have told us that we need to do better. We are doing better by engaging with them and working with them, still a long way to go. A lot of changes are still needed. We are committed to making those changes.

MR. TESTART: The Minister talked about taking immediate action when he took over this portfolio. He has talked about the May audit. Clearly, these concerns from front-line staff and the totality of concerns are significant and have been present for a long time. When was the Minister first made aware that Child and Family Services was worse off now than it was in 2014?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I think the Member and all Members remember, when we brought forward the audit of the 2015-2016 files, the audit, too, was broke. We ended up having a real problem making some determinations. From that audit, we knew there was something that wasn't exactly right, but we didn't understand the magnitude. I directed the department to fix the problem so that we could do a comprehensive audit so we could understand where we were. That audit was completed in May 2017, at which point the department expressed to me and demonstrated the challenges we were facing.

At that time, I immediately directed that we move forward with increasing the number of positions in the upcoming budget, but we started making changes within to add other positions, like the foster management positions. I also directed them to move from a one-year audit process to a more quality-assurance-based system based on the fact that the new tool Matrix allows us to report monthly. We started making these changes immediately, as soon as we became aware. I have been monitoring the progress.

The Auditor General report was happening at the same time. We chose not to wait for the Auditor General's report to start actioning these items because, at the end of the day, these children only have one opportunity at a childhood. We wanted to make sure that we are addressing these challenges and these concerns immediately once they became obvious.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, I am torn with these responses. I appreciate the Minister is working on this. Ultimately, he has had plenty of time to start making progress on this. Things are worse today than they were before. Someone needs to take responsibility for this, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister take personal responsibility and resign? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: A number of years ago, when we moved Building Stronger Families, I said in the media that we needed to make sure that we hold our staff accountable for this action. This is a plan that needs to be done by the staff of the Northwest Territories. It is sad to say that, when I met with staff in May and again last week to review progress that we have made to date, not one person in that department who was there last week was there when we rolled out Building Stronger Families. We have gone through a complete management change, some because they needed to retire, some because they needed to go. We are making the changes that are necessary. I believe we are on the right path.

I would encourage the Member, and I am sure he will: on December 12th, the department will be coming to both committees with the auditor, and they will be walking through our action plan. That just doesn't demonstrate work we want to do, but it also clearly articulates work that we have done to make these improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 457-18(3):
FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES AUDIT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le president. [Translation] My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. An October 5th news release from the department says that there has been a significant improvement in French language communications and services, according to an independent audit. However, there are a number of deficiencies identified in the audit. First, what formal mechanism will be used to address and improve upon the services identified as being deficient? [Translation ends]. Merci, Monsieur le President.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just start by clarifying that I am struggling with French, but I am going to try to do

the best to answer appropriately as per the interpreter. Thank you for the translation on the mic.

My understanding is that we want to know what formal mechanisms can be used to address and improve on the services identified within the audit. The audit looked at four different areas. It looked at service delivery, how we deliver our programs; active offers, do we even offer people to be able to have service in French; our signage; and our display of public information or our publications. I was quite impressed, actually, when we got the results from the audit that we have made some improvements. That is a good sign, but we still have work to go. Just because we have done improvements doesn't mean we stop now.

We need to work closely with the francophone community, and we are committed to doing that. We are going to be looking at a monitoring and evaluation and accountability plan that will track the changes that are needed and the ones that are recommended in the audit, and we will keep on top of them to make sure that we have not only adequate but the best services that we can provide in French as possible to the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: [Translation]. One of the issues noted is that French language training is shorter in duration than training offered by other orders of government. I have been told, for example, that there is one group of employees taking 30 hours of coursework over 10 weeks, while in the federal government groups take up to 120 hours for the same period. The audit recommends that our training hours be aligned with those used by other governments. Can the Minister explain how she intends to respond to this audit recommendation? [Translation ends].

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I have been assured by my department that, actually, our training is meeting the needs of employees, but I also take heed, and I think that we need to challenge that because the audit is saying that we need to do better with our training.

I am committed to actually looking at the employees that are taking that training and actually doing a survey of them and asking them personally, "Is that training enough? What would you like to see implemented?"

I will take that on, and depending on what the employees say, we will adjust our training. Like I said earlier, we want to provide the best service possible in all of our languages in the Northwest Territories, and my commitment is to make sure that we do that and that we are working towards the needs of the employees.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. [Translation] Another area addressed in the report is emergency alert messaging to the general public which is not available in French. Obviously this is a very important matter. Can the Minister explain how our official languages are going to be incorporated into emergency services, including in alert messages and 911 services moving ahead? [Translation ends]. Merci, Monsieur le President.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Like I said, when I first got the audit, I was actually really impressed with the progress that we have made, but when I read the audit and it said that we need to do better with our alert messaging, that was a concern. Health and safety has to be our priority.

We are working closely with MACA. My understanding was that they did, actually, when they did the testing of the alert messaging, the radio station did have the French translation, and it was missed. It didn't happen. That is not okay. That is not an excuse. What I am saying is that we need to work closer with MACA. We need to make sure that our alert system, when it broadcasts that there is an alert out there, that people understand and can evacuate or do whatever they need to make sure that they are safe.

That is an area that we need to make sure that we bump up, and again, my commitment is that is a priority for me because that is about emergency services. That is not just asking, "Do you want a French translator?" That is life or death.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. [Translation] Finally, there seems to be an imbalance in the amount of money being spent on translation - very large - and the amount of money spent on training, which is much less. It seems obvious that if we improve training, we won't need to spend as much on translation, and we can enjoy the benefits of all of our official languages at the same time. How will the Minister put greater emphasis on training, in keeping with the recommendations from this audit? [Translation ends]. Merci, Monsieur le President.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I want to start by saying that translation services is not as easy as just speaking a second language. It is actually a profession. It is actually formal training to be able to do that. It is an expensive profession, as well, but a very necessary one within the territories.

The training that we are looking for more with our employees to whom we are offering the French languages is more on the active offer. It is being able to notice when somebody needs translation

services, be able to say that, hopefully, in their language, and be able to transfer them over. It is more condensed training that we are looking at.

I agree with the Member. If we can get more people trained in speaking French fluently, then we won't need as many translators. However, I do have to say that not all of us have that capability. I went through high school here. We didn't have an option of Indigenous languages back then. We learned French, and Mr. Speaker, I struggle with saying "hello," "goodbye," and "how are you doing?" today.

Not everyone can get there, I recognize. I am going to try again. Until then, we will need professional translators to be able to provide the service, and we need our employees to at least be able to say, "Bonjour," and I can't say the rest, but "do you need a translator?" That is what we are focusing on, but like I had noted before, our training, if it is not meeting the needs of the employees, then we need to find out what their needs are and work on strengthening it. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 458-18(3):
ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY

MR. MCNEELY: Bonjour, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

MR. MCNEELY: Mr. Speaker, following up to my statements on the innovation of new technology coming north, it is a far advancement to the cabin dad had.

My first question here is: if the SIP panels are such an innovative proven technology with reductions to the utility costs of the homes, what is the NWT Housing Corporation doing with this proven technology for continuance to the SIP model homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Member is quite right. The NWT Housing Corporation has utilized the structural insulation panels in the past and, most recently, for communities in the Sahtu region. We are going to continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the SIP panels in these units, but I anticipate that there will be gains in energy efficiency and see how we can utilize the structural insulation panels in other communities in the Northwest Territories, especially ones where we do see high costs of the utility costs.

Yesterday, I had questions from another Member, and we talked about the user-pay power system. I mentioned that with that user-pay power system, we have also seen an 8 percent decrease in fuel consumption, which that funding actually goes back into programs we run through NWT Housing Corporation. We are going to continue to monitor and evaluate these solar panels. I am sure we are going to see some really good results, then hopefully continue to use them in other communities as one of our goals is to create energy-efficient homes, adequate, safe, and affordable homes, as well.

MR. MCNEELY: Thanks to the Minister for the reply here. I think we're going in the right direction. We know there's a demand for this technology in the smaller communities where you have already high utility costs for the livelihood of the homeowner. Given the demand that's out there, is the Housing Corporation working with the manufacturing companies already in the North to improve on a supply-chain manufacturing system for these SIP panel homes?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: To be honest, I think it's too early to say. We've got to do our evaluation, monitor the SIP home, the solar panels, as well as, like I said, we have to do the research and continue to monitor and evaluate before we look at expanding the program, but we are anticipating that we are going to see some energy efficiencies, and hopefully we can move forward with this.

Most recently, as well the Member knows, we did sit down with the Deline Got'ine Government around other housing infrastructure needs, as well as promoting our housing programs and how we can work together. Right now, it's too early to say. We are going to continue to evaluate and research before we make those decisions. Right now, I am pretty sure that we are going to anticipate some savings and we will continue work with the communities and the local governments as well as keep the Member apprised of those evaluations.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for that reply here. That leads to my other question that the Minister touched on here. I was going to encourage the Minister to give a strong consideration in viewing the end product that's already in Deline and witness the consumption and reductions through the receipts of the utility bills for those homes and schedule a manufacturing conference or meeting in Deline with some of the potential manufacturing in the North. Would the Minister commit to initiating that workshop, if you want to call it, in Deline between the Deline Got'ine Government, the public, and the

manufacturing companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, it is a little bit too early to say what we are going to do in terms of expansion of this program. We have to evaluate. We already had an initial discussion with the Deline Got'ine Government on a lot of our housing programs and how we can work together as well as work with the federal government.

We do want to support our communities, as well as the communities that have the highest utility costs, and address our cost of living. I am committed to continuing that work, but we are going to need to look at the evaluation and continue to monitor before we decide what our next steps are. As I mentioned, early onset, we are seeing some really good results. We will commit to working with the communities that we have installed these structural insulated panels, the ones that we installed in north Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Deline, and Colville Lake. We will continue to work with the Member moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 459-18(3):
CABINET ACCOUNTABILITY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe in consensus governments, and, after working in the system, I know that the grass is greener on this side of the fence. Of course, there is always room for improvement. In order for our system to function, strong leadership is required. Now is the time for that leadership. The Premier has quite broad powers, greater than most people realize, I believe, and with that comes a great responsibility. Every time I go into his office, I feel like Luca Brasi in the beginning of *The Godfather*, so I know. I'm sure he's firmly in control of his Cabinet.

I want to ask the Premier: this House has made clear that it will not tolerate an acceptance of the failure outlined in the Auditor General's report on Child and Family Services. What is the Premier going to do about this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to say that I'm very concerned about the Auditor General's findings that there are serious deficiencies in the delivery of child and family services, but that's not news to me. I have been involved at a national level working with the Council of Federation with the premiers, and every jurisdiction in Canada has serious deficiencies in delivery of child and family services.

I also chair the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group where Minister Abernethy and I led a review of best practices in childcare in all of the provinces and territories and we tabled a report, but that does not denigrate from the findings of the Auditor General. In my situation, I have to find out the seriousness of the matter. It's very serious. I read the Auditor General's report. The methodology that they used, they have reviewed 37 child files and 37 foster care files. They also said that the department provides protective and preventative services to over 1,000 children a year on average over the past 10 years. To me, one child in care that's not dealt with properly or who doesn't receive the proper care or protective care is an emergency.

I have to deal with becoming more involved with the file. As the Member said, I have some powers. The Legislative Assembly appoints the Ministers. I issue the portfolios. I have a couple of options. Before we get to those options, Members can speak to the Minister or we can have what we call "fire side chats," which in the past have proven very beneficial in improving our government's performance. If there are still concerns about the Minister's performance, as I said, I have two options. Either a Cabinet shuffle or one that we take very seriously and is a more serious is the removal of a Minister's portfolio.

I have reviewed the actions. I have looked at the report. It's a very serious situation. I believe that and I'm satisfied that the Minister has taken this issue seriously. It's very important for the public to know that this government is taken seriously. I'm waiting for my friend, the Auditor General of Canada, Michael Ferguson, to come on December 12th. I would like to discuss it in more detail because I don't know. I understood we dealt with the 2014 auditor in good faith, where we put in a foundation, and now for the report to come back and say, "Well, you know, you're worse off than you were before," I'm wondering what happened to their previous audit. I need more information. I know this is very serious. It's a very serious concern, and we are not going to take it lightly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I would like the Premier to harken back to his days as a deputy minister and maybe bring that iron fist out again to handle this situation because it is serious. The concerns of the public and Members of this House regarding issues with MTS had been shrugged off by the Minister of Infrastructure, and his responses have been defiant to the authority of this Assembly. It's clear to anyone who pays attention that the Members on this side of the House consider that behaviour unacceptable. I know that the Premier has been watching every day that we are in the House. He sees what we see. What is the Premier doing to handle this situation?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We knew when we got into the situation of operating a barging company that there would be some serious issues. It is a very challenging environment to operate in, and we recognized that there would be situations where we would not be able to make deliveries.

We have put in place a revolving fund, which allows us to try to make the three communities as whole as possible, even the communities that are not in the Northwest Territories, and we are spending approximately \$3- to \$4-million to try to deliver all of the fuel that the community needs. Of course, that is a top priority. We also will be delivering the food and goods that they had purchased, and some we just can't afford to deliver, such as vehicles and so on.

That is the responsibility we have taken on ourselves. As far as the operations of the barges, and I understand that there was fuel that wasn't up to spec, we will examine all of those in the normal course of operations, like we do in every operational situation, and we will take steps to try to make sure that it doesn't happen again. There have been suggestions that perhaps somebody was asleep at the wheel. If that was the case, we will find that out as well.

Right now, our priority is we have to get fuel into the communities. We don't want the communities to freeze up. We want customers to get their food and so on, and we will continue to operate on that basis.

MR. SIMPSON: My questions are more about what the Premier is going to do to get his Cabinet in line. It is clear that the Members of this House are not happy with some of the results that are being produced, the way that Cabinet is answering questions, and the way that they view the Regular Members.

I am not here to do the Premier's job for him, but I think he needs to sit down with the Ministers who everyone knows are causing some issues and make them realize that we are here to serve the people, that the questions coming from this side of the House are coming from the public, that we ask them for the greater good, and that defiant answers and refusals to answer questions and share information and work with the Regular Members is not appropriate.

Will the Premier sit down with his Cabinet colleagues and put them in place for us?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: In my view, in my estimation, that is what we should all aspire to and certainly will have discussions with all of the Members of Cabinet as we want to do.

I think that is why I have relied on fireside chats, to try to make sure that we are all working, pulling in

the same direction, and I find that when we treat each other with respect and when we work together, we accomplish a lot more.

I certainly thank the Member for bringing this to our attention again, and it is important for us to continue to pay a lot of attention to it and continue to aspire to improve in those areas.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, I was hoping he would bring up the old deputy minister iron fist, but I didn't hear that.

The fireside chats are great, and I admit that we haven't had enough of them. I brought this up before at the mid-terms, but the phones work both ways. I can walk down that hallway; the Premier can walk down our hallway. He knows the issues.

Will the Premier commit to reaching out more to the Regular Members so that we can build a better relationship with Cabinet and work better for the people of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Certainly I will endeavour to do that, and the deputy iron fist, perhaps that was the good old days, but certainly I will continue to work very closely with the Ministers to continue to work to deliver on behalf of all of the Members and also to serve the people of the Northwest Territories. We always aspire to get better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 460-18(3): PUBLIC HOUSING POWER RATES

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions about the impacts of the Housing Corporation's adjustments to public housing utility rates. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister: how is the department's income security programs division responding where its clients have been affected by changing public housing utility rates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the withdrawal of the utility payments by the Housing Corporation was done in September 2018, so we haven't really seen a huge impact of it yet. I should clarify in

stating that not everyone that is in housing programs is actually an income support clientele. It is combined.

Our goals within the income support program are to make sure that people have enough to meet their basic needs. We are ensuring that no one that is on income support that is in public housing or outside, not only in public housing, but in market housing, that their utilities are paid. The effect to the people that are on income support would be nil, other than basically they would now have to bring in their utility bill to be paid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: I asked a similar question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Has the department itself calculated how the Housing Corporation's changes to public housing utility rates has impacted demand on income support programs?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Like I said earlier, we haven't really looked at that too much, but it is a bigger thing than that, what I am actually concerned about, and I had spoke on that before in the House, is that income support will be necessary for some people. People with disabilities or seniors, people that have specific challenges in life, they might need support for their whole lives, but we also need to focus on people actually progressing in their life or productive choices.

That is why I had committed earlier to actually working with the non-profits, setting up a table before the end of this calendar year, so that we can work more on how we can support people that are on income support so that -- I hate to say this -- we don't have people thinking that they can just, you know, "I don't have to work. I can just lay on the couch and collect a paycheque," because that is not okay.

I don't say that in a derogatory term. I don't mean that derogatorily, but we have kind of set up a society that almost says it is okay, and we need to change that. We need to focus on giving people who are on income support the pride and the goals and the opportunities so that they can progress in life, and that is what I am looking to do. That is the goal of the focus when we meet with the non-profits is: how do we support people better than what we are doing?

MR. BLAKE: We don't have non-profit organizations in all our communities, just for the record.

How will the department work with the Housing Corporation to ensure a coordinated government approach to this mandate commitment?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I am not 100 percent sure what mandate commitment we are

actually talking about, because we have quite a few mandate commitments. I am sorry, but I have to ask clarification on what mandate commitment specifically the Member is asking about.

MR. BLAKE: It seems to be a mandate commitment to have our public housing residents to have an increase in payment to their power bills. That is what I am referring to.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you for clarifying. I didn't realize that the utilities was actually a mandate commitment, so I will have to look on that. I can say that we need to support people so that they become as self-reliant as possible, recognizing that self-reliance isn't something that will be attainable for everyone.

I understand the reasoning for the Housing Corporation's decision. I used to be the Housing Minister, and my understanding is that within some communities, because people weren't paying their utilities, houses were becoming the public car wash. When people were hot in the winters, instead of turning down the thermostat, they were opening windows.

I understand the theory on how we needed to get people more taking care of their utilities and realizing the cost. I think what we missed in that is that we need to look at income support as well. How do we reward people for actually being more conservative with the utilities? We are in a day of climate change. We are in a day of really ugly things coming for our children and our grandchildren if we don't start getting people more conservative, looking at how can I as a person help impact what is happening within our world, within the Northwest Territories? I need to look at more ways to be more positive and reinforcing and rewarding good behaviour versus punishing bad behaviour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 461-18(3):
EXPANDING THE NORTHERN PATHWAYS TO
HOUSING PROGRAM

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, my question is: does the NWT Housing Corporation have plans to expand the Northern Pathways to Housing program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe I did a Minister's Statement on the good work that we are doing with the Northern Pathways to Housing program.

Currently, we have one of those programs set up in Fort Simpson that is being managed by the Liidlii Kue First Nation. It is working really well, and I am proud to say that we have helped some people transition into housing or get the support and assistance that they need, whether it is treatment or to get back on their feet. We are going to get one shortly up in Behchoko here, and we are hoping to see some good results out of that. As I mentioned when I did that statement, we are going to be expanding one into the community of Aklavik.

We are going to monitor and evaluate, like we do all of our programs, and see where we can address some of the homelessness concerns and issues outside of the regional centres into some of the smaller communities. I am sure the Member is referring to Nunakput, and as we monitor and evaluate the program and see how we can expand it, we will definitely look at it. It is a pilot program, and on its initial stages and evaluations, we are seeing that it is serving the right purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: During these past couple of weeks or, actually, during this session, we have seen realities. Sometimes we don't need studies to see that programs or departments are failing, and they are failing hugely. One of my colleagues mentioned to the Premier that they need to be accountable for the services that we provide to the territory. We really need to stand by that, Mr. Speaker. Housing in my region is becoming less and less as the population grows.

Mr. Speaker, core need as well as general housing availability are critical housing issues across the territory. Mr. Speaker, how is the Housing Corporation planning to increase available housing stock, specifically in Nunakput?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I will refer back to another Minister's Statement that I gave earlier this session, and that is the work that we are doing with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. We have seen some great success. Also, in partnership with the federal government, we have been able to build some new housing stocks in all of the communities in the Nunakput region. We are going to continue that partnership moving forward.

One thing that I have also mentioned, which is a great initiative under the NWT Housing Corporation, is that we are going to start developing these community housing plans that are going to identify what are the priorities, what are the core needs of each of the communities across the Northwest

Territories, whether it is seniors, whether it is homelessness, singles, multi-unit units, and we will work with the community leaders and the stakeholders to address them.

There are a few things that we are doing. One other program that we have been working on is a new home ownership program, and we are going to be rolling that out, hopefully, over the next year, and identifying getting some new homes in each of the five districts that we have across the Northwest Territories.

As I mentioned before, I do pride myself on partnerships, and I am looking to work with the local governments, Indigenous governments, and I think one of our strongest partnerships that we have right now in the Northwest Territories is with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and I continue to look forward to strengthening that partnership and helping them address the housing needs in their communities.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. There is such a need for housing in every aspect, not just here in Yellowknife, but across the territory. We don't see it. We don't travel often enough to the regions to see the suffering, sometimes, of some people. I think, Mr. Speaker, we need to make a point of getting out more and maybe having sessions outside of Yellowknife. I know this is the legislature, but there are times when we need to go to different regions to see what it is really like over there.

Mr. Speaker, my next question to the Minister is: what other corporation initiatives are planned to address the need for additional transitional housing across the territory?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: One of the things that we are doing within the NWT Housing Corporation is going through a strategic renewal to identify some of our priorities, look at our policies, and what needs to be changed to make it easier and better for people to either own a home or get into public housing.

As I mentioned, the community housing plans are going to help us identify those, because we will be working with leaders and the people in the communities for them to tell us what they need, and I think that is a big step.

For transitional housing, I know that is an issue right across the NWT, and we want to address that. We want to work with our stakeholders, our NGO groups.

We also have a program, the Community Housing Support Initiative, where we do work with community governments to help identify some of those needs and how we can work together to

build, whether it's a transitional unit or just, kind of, housing stocks in their communities and promote our programs that we have.

There is a lot going on. The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, they have a good understanding of our programs. We meet with them on a regular basis, and we are hoping that information does filter down to the communities in the Nunakput region.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. There is a real need for collaboration across departments and, as well, with the government to Indigenous organizations and Indigenous governments in the territory. Mr. Speaker, there is a real need.

Mr. Speaker, to date, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation was given \$24 million directly from the federal government to build homes in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Mr. Speaker, with \$24 million, one would think that \$24 million would result in more homes as injections like this are key to the government. Over this session, I have listened to Ministers --

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Nunakput, what is your line of questioning?

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with \$24 million given to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, one would think that that would inject more homes in the region, mind you, in the territory. Mr. Speaker, what is the Minister doing to ensure that the number of homes increase with the population in Nunakput and then across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I have named off a bunch of programs that we are doing. One thing that we also are doing and actually have a good partnership with the IRC is unit disposal plans. If we can get rid of some of these, whether they are derelict units or units that have reached their life cycle, then we open up land to build new housing units. We are continuing work with the IRC to address some of these housing concerns. We will continue to support them, work collaboratively with them, and continue to lobby and work with the federal government to see how we can get some of the Indigenous housing funding through their National Housing Strategy here to the Northwest Territories so other Indigenous governments can have the same success that the IRC is showing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 462-18(3):
PUBLIC HOUSING POWER RATES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Housing. Mr. Speaker, there were some questions on the power rates that were eventually increased to where, I believe, that the tenants in public housing are paying their own power. At one point, it used to be a payment of a small amount per kilowatt hour, and then it continued to grow until they are paying everything. One of our mandates is to lower the cost of living. I would like to ask the Minister: the benches that are set for rent, it depends on your income; you pay a certain bench. If the power that the tenants are paying is over and above that bench or if that bench is adjusted to accommodate for the fact that they are paying their own power? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the NWT Housing Corporation is not planning to address the subsidized public housing rent scale. We are going to continue with this program as a user-pay power program. As I mentioned yesterday, we have seen a decrease of about eight percent in consumption, which means that tenants are actually taking responsibility. They are conserving more energy. It is a good program. We are seeing some good results. At this time, we are not planning to adjust the subsidized public housing rent scale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider making that adjustment for the bottom and, like, the power subsidy program, where, in the wintertime, everybody is subsidized at the Yellowknife rate, up to \$1,000, and, in the summertime, everybody is adjusted to the Yellowknife rate, up to \$600. I would like to ask the Minister if that portion of the power bill could make an adjustment to the actual benches of the rent.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, right now, we are not looking at adjusting that. I just want to remind Members of the House here, as well, that our shelter costs that our tenants pay are much lower than the national affordable standard of 30 percent of their income. Our tenants are still paying a lot lower than what the national standard is. Currently, we are not going to be looking at adjusting it.

We are looking at ways we can be more energy efficient. We have a lot of other programs that will offset that. We are continuing to work with our partners at ECE, Health. There are a lot of programs that we are working to try to lift people

out of poverty but also give them the basic needs that they need to succeed.

The NWT Housing Corporation has developed some great programs over the last couple of governments. We will continue to support those programs, promote those programs, and strengthen out partnerships with local governments as well as our stakeholders.

MR. BEAULIEU: I agree with the Minister. I realize that the maximum amount set in the rent scale is 19.4 percent, not 30 percent. The reason it is there is because they are public housing tenants. They have low incomes. They have to be below a certain income threshold in order to be in public housing. I am asking the Minister again to look at the power subsidy portion, which is that subsidy I referred to where everyone is brought to the Yellowknife rate up to a certain amount, if the Minister would look at making the adjustments based on that number. I think that would be the more appropriate way that would continue to have people be conservative with their power. I ask the Minister again if he would look at that. I am not expecting a commitment here on the floor but if he could look at that.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, I can take a look at that. We do want our tenants and our residents of the Northwest Territories to be a little bit more energy efficient in how they conserve energy in their units. Obviously, some of our communities only have a set number of fuel. We want to make sure that we can continue to support and make sure our communities have the adequate fuel sources to keep their houses warm, especially during the winter months. We definitely can take a look at that.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that. That is very good. I guess one more thing on that is that I am asking the Minister to do that adjustment so that individuals who are hitting a certain income threshold and then they are maxing out at a certain percentage do not start to exceed that once they start paying their own power. I don't know if that is more of a comment, I suppose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I will take that as a comment. Oral questions, [English translation not provided]. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to the Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Kam Lake.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 18:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACT

BILL 20:

OMBUD ACT

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 18: An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, and Bill 20, Ombud Act. Mr. Speaker, the committee wishes to report that Bill 18 is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole and that Bill 20 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Government House Leader.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 269-18(3):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
361-18(3):
PROPOSED HAY RIVER FISH PLANT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 361-18(3): Proposed Hay River Fish Plant." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 270-18(3):
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE FINDINGS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AURORA
COLLEGE FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I am proud to table the following document entitled "Government Response to the Findings and Recommendations of the Aurora College Foundational Review." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 30:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, October 30, 2018, I will move that Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Minister responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 25:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE WORKERS'
COMPENSATION ACT

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Bill 25 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 26:
STATISTICS ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 26, Statistics Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 26 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Member for Frame Lake.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 24:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTIONS AND
PLEBISCITES ACT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill amends the Elections and Plebiscites Act to implement the recommendations of the October 17, 2017 report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on the review of the chief electoral officer's report on the administration of the 2015 territorial general election, supplementary recommendations, and the white paper on the independence and accountability of election administration in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 24 has had its second reading. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Notwithstanding Rule 74(2), I seek unanimous consent to move Bill 24 into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 74(2) to move Bill 24 into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 24 has been moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Masi.

Second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process; Minister's Statement 103-18(3), Marine Transportation Services; and Tabled Document 215-18(3), Capital Estimates, 2019-2020, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 7-18(3), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider business before the House.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, committee wishes to review Tabled Document 215-18(3), Capital Estimates, 2019-2020, with the Departments of Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; Department of

Justice; and the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will consider the document after a brief recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee, I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. We have agreed to consider Tabled Document 215-18(3), Capital Estimates, 2019-2020, beginning with the Department of Health and Social Services. I will ask the Minister responsible to take his seat at the witness table, and I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have two individuals with me. On my left is Perry Heath, who is the director of infrastructure planning, and on my right is Derek Elkin, assistant deputy minister, Health and Social Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Committee, this department begins at page 30 of the document. We will defer the departmental total until after consideration of the activity summaries. The first is on pages 31 and 32, administrative and support services. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister please elaborate on what the body holding unit that is being scheduled for Fort Liard is all about? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I am dealing with a bit of a stomach flu right now, so I didn't actually get that question. Can the Member please repeat it?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. The Member asked you to elaborate on the body holding space plan for Fort Liard.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, over the years, here, in the Northwest Territories, we have had many of our smaller communities where there are no body holding facilities or body holding space express a desire to have those facilities in their communities.

As we have rolled out infrastructure, new health centres, and those types of things, we have been incorporating those into the building to ensure that we have proper infection control, air handling, and all those types of things. It has become clear that there are a number of facilities that probably won't be replaced due to our 20-year plan for longer periods of time, and we wanted to make sure that we stood up and provided these smaller communities with separate stand-alone body holding spaces so that communities can keep their family members in their communities for funerals and those types of things.

They will be stand-alone modular-type units. We are testing two of them this year, one in Aklavik, one in Fort Liard. Sorry, in the next fiscal year, and if they work, if they meet our needs, we are looking at expanding to other communities that are further down on the capital plan that don't have those facilities today.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that clarification. I would like to thank the department for taking this initiative and seeing if it works. As the Minister is aware, we have talked about a number of options for having a place where we put the bodies. We were talking about arenas and garages and that, so I think this is a very positive step. I thank the department for looking into this.

My next question is: the communication system for the retrofit for the health centre there, could the Minister please elaborate a little further on this? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there has been a lot of talk about replacing the health centre in Fort Simpson and that work is still under way. We still know that we need to replace that health centre in that community, but there are some safety issues with respect to Nurse Call and their ability to have the technology around them in case there happens to be an incident.

Although we are going to replace the facility for safety issues, we do have to put those nursing call structures in place within the long-term care facility.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that information. We are not talking about the hospital itself; we are just talking

about the long-term care unit? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

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

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that. That will be all of my questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Next, we have Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just briefly, I noticed there are emergency access upgrades in Hay River. I assume this is at the health centre. For the ambulance to get into the health centre, it has to make a couple of hairpin turns. Will this upgrade rectify that situation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. It also addresses pedestrian access, if I could just get a clarification of what that means? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. HEATH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is pedestrian access when it comes to the emergency access component of the existing health centre building.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Next, we have Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I noticed the mechanical upgrades for the HVAC system in the building or the health centre in Fort Good Hope. I share the experience that when I went there, actually, a couple of years ago, the building was shut down because it was just too unbearably hot that particular summer. I just share that in hopes that other buildings in other communities might be audited the same way. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I must have been there that summer because I have been in that building when it is incredibly hot. This is an air conditioner for that building in Fort Good Hope. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: That is why I referred to it as an HVAC. It is an acronym for the same system, which I am very grateful to see in the books for. Mahsi.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think this is where the Stanton Renewal Project is located in the capital budget. Can the Minister just tell us: are we still on track to have the project completed? I thought it was supposed to be done in November. We are almost at November. When is the transition to the new facility going to start? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the project is on target. The building will be handed over to us on November 30th, at which point we will be stepping up to get occupation of that building. The go-live date, the first patient day, is May 26th of 2019.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks for that. I don't have any further questions and thank the Minister for his work on it. Thanks.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I see that the long-term care facility upgrade is again in this capital budget. It was carried over, I believe, from last year. Why was that carry-over necessary? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. I believe it's in the next page, but I'll get Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there's sort of three different long-term care projects here. Can the Member maybe highlight which one, or is it all three that she's asking about?

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

MS. GREEN: I'm talking about page 34. Are we looking at page 34?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, you may be the best judge of that, but I was under the impression that we were on administrative and support services, not community health programs. Your observation will be appreciated here.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. No further questions, Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: I have a question on page 32.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Any further questions, committee? Seeing none, I will call the page. Health and Social Services, administrative and support services, infrastructure investments, \$7,903,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed, thank you. Next, we turn to page 33, information items on page 34, Health and Social Services, community health programs, infrastructure investments. Does committee have any questions? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, over the last few months, I have been talking about the Stanton building and, not the Stanton building, I guess, but the old Stanton Hospital. I have been asking for the possibility of having a nursing school, homecare, and so on, to training homecare people, all the various positions that are needed to do homecare. I'm wondering if there's any thought at all in the department to consider Stanton Hospital as a school for nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we did discuss it in the department after the Member had raised it a number of months ago. Basically, that building is fully subscribed with long-term care, extended care, the family clinic, other clinics, OT/PT, so there's not a lot of space in there for things like classrooms and other things to run a school. The school and the education programs are ultimately something that is under the responsibility of Education, Culture and Employment, and the nursing program here in the Northwest Territories is an absolutely amazing program.

We are happy to work with the College to facilitate clinical practice and practicums and make sure that their students have an opportunity to get into all of

our health facilities, including future health facilities, so that they can consolidate their learning. If we start turning this into a school, we will run quickly short on some of the other areas that we need to provide. We are happy to be a partner. We are happy to bring students in, but we are not in a position to turn this into a school.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you. Mr. Chair, I'm generally thinking about the same people, basically almost the same people, I suppose, that would provide the care for the long-term patients or extended-care patients as being students as opposed to being a staff. I'm assuming again that, in order to pick up an additional 72 people in long-term care, there would be new staff needed, considering that, I guess, Avens is staffed up and the extended care facility, I guess, is staffed up, and that currently exists. I'm thinking that there's a way where the students would provide the care to long-term care, at the same time getting educated in the field.

If it's filled up with a program and there's going to be hiring needed, I'm saying that's a golden opportunity for them to train individuals that will return back. The whole idea, I mean the federal government is investing in homecare over and above other things that they would just normally invest in because they see the value of it. What I'm saying is this is an opportunity to train long-term care people that are returning back to all 33 communities, including Yellowknife, where I'm sure there are many senior homeowners who would love to remain in their homes. This is an opportunity to provide a service to the seniors all over the North, for the homeowners to extend the life of their unit for something that they can remain in for, you know, even an additional 10 years.

We all know the numbers. I have talked about the numbers so many times, for an additional 10 years with working with the Housing Corporation to make sure that the unit is senior-friendly or barrier-free. This is an opportunity to train those people to go back. It's jobs. It's got a lot of upside to it.

I was wondering if the Minister in turning this over to a long-term care, which I agree with, would again have a discussion with the department to see what's possible and if they need to engage department education, which I think they need to. The Ministers in both have said that it would involve both Ministers. I would like to ask the Ministers if they would take another look at this before, I guess, Maybe when the other hospital is up and running. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are going to be moving forward with 258 long-term care beds here, in the Northwest Territories, over the next. I think it's the next four or five years which are going to create a significant demand for employees. It's going to be hundreds and hundreds of jobs here, in the Northwest Territories, 60 in Hay River, 60 in Inuvik, probably more here, in Yellowknife, and then more again in Simpson. All of these people are going to be trained. Some of them are going to be RNs; some of them will be resident-care aides; some of them may be admin staff, these types of things; non-statutory jobs. We will be working to hire people and train people on the job where appropriate. There is certainly opportunity for people to come into the healthcare system for non-statutory jobs and get training on the job.

Human resources just got up two different programs. One is a senior management program, and one is more of a development program for more entry. These are opportunities we can use to train local people for local work. I have already told the department I want to see that happen.

When it comes to resident-care aides and nurses, obviously nurses have to go through a program. A program involves classroom time, a learning on non-patients, practice on non-patients, but it always includes clinical practice. It always includes clinical practice. We have been a partner with Education, Culture and Employment and with the college to facilitate clinical placements in all of our facilities throughout the Northwest Territories.

With resident-care aides, it's the same. The program was in Inuvik. I actually had an opportunity to get in there and meet some of the students. It's the same. There has to be a lot of, sort of, up-front training development that's done in a classroom setting so that they can go into the health centres or the long-term care facilities and provide safe support while they are consolidating their learning. We have worked with the school to work on clinical placements.

In my mind, as I believe it is in yours, there is a great opportunity for us to work with the college to do some clinical learning to help provide some of those services. These are students. They aren't necessarily registered professionals, so there are still some, you know, risk or accountability issues we have to make sure we address. We are absolutely going to work with Aurora College, and we are absolutely going to work with Education to facilitate clinical learning within our facilities, including the new long-term care facility when it opens.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the same page, something that isn't there, I know I have had discussions with the Minister on the health centre in Lutselk'e. I know that there are basically four health centres that are close to reaching the end of their useful lives, and two of them have already been replaced. That is Providence and Fort Resolution, and I know it is in the books to replace Tulita.

Lutselk'e, I believe, is next in line for a replacement. I know that they were looking at that as a renovation, but the Minister himself and I have talked and looking at a replacement, but I am afraid that the replacement idea has pushed this project down the road too far. I would like to ask the Minister: what the earliest that the department will be doing any sort of, I guess, maybe we'll call it a planning study for the replacement of Lutselk'e Health Centre? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. When he and I had an opportunity to attend the opening of the Fort Resolution Health and Social Services Centre there, we did talk about that building and how incredible it was, and we both talked about the fact that the building in Lutselk'e was intended to be, not a replacement, but a renovation.

I am not as big a fan of the renovations that we have done over the years, and I think Lutselk'e deserves a facility that is state of the art, so I agreed with the Member. I also got a letter from the community saying that they wanted to see a replacement, not a renovation. So I had to make a decision to take it out of the queue. It is still in the next one in line, but we now have to do a new planning study based on a replacement as opposed to a renovation, because it is a significantly different project. I believe that a replacement is the right way to go, but we need to see the numbers, and we need to see the planning study.

I will, obviously, move it forward in the next cycle, assuming that we get the work done, and I am optimistic that we will get it done. It will have to compete against all capital projects in the Northwest Territories, so we will do our work to forward it in a complete way.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is all I have for this page. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Next, we have Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The first information item is a long-term care facility in Hay River. The Minister of Finance, when he was introducing this budget, announced that, between Hay River's and Inuvik's, there was quite a bit of money allocated. I would like to know where we can expect that project to be at the end of 2020. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are committed to getting the 48 beds in Hay River. We have to get the staff out of the old H.H. Williams. I have been pushing the Department of Infrastructure to find a way to get them out of there as quickly as possible, so that the next step can include the teardown of the old H.H. Williams, so that we can begin the process of breaking ground on the long-term care facility in Hay River.

We have also been having conversations with potential partners who have expressed an interest in owning and operating and being a partner in the delivery of a long-term care facility in Hay River. We need to explore that option to make sure that there is good value for money, both for the residents of Hay River, but also the potential provider.

It is a little difficult for me to say exactly where we will be in 2020 because there are a lot of moving pieces on this one, but I would like to see us have ground break within the time allotted on this page.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. Is the department looking at a privatized care model? Right now, it is the health authority that runs the Woodland Manor in Hay River. The Minister is talking about contracting out this long-term care unit. Can he please elaborate on that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have been approached by a community group and other organizations to partner a project similar to Avens, as an example, here in Yellowknife, and creating a seniors' community in Hay River that isn't just long-term care, but is independent living and possibly some subsidized housing and some supported living.

It is a really interesting concept we want to explore to see if there is good value for money on here, but at the same time, we don't want this to get put off

the rails. We need to get these long-term care beds built, so we will do our due diligence, and if that doesn't work, we will begin building.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. It sounds like there are still a lot of balls in the air. I think, when the Minister made opening comments, about half of this budget in the community health programs was for the long-term care facilities in Hay River and Inuvik. Where is the bulk of that money going, or is it sort of evenly split? I just want to get a sense of where we can expect to be. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are both 48-bed facilities that we are looking at. The costs are relatively split down the middle, recognizing it is probably a little bit more in the Beaufort Delta because the cost of construction is higher there. We are looking at both 48-bed facilities. It is close, but not exact.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. When we discussed this last year, the facility in Hay River was quite a bit ahead, schedule-wise, of Inuvik, and now it seems like they are both on track for the same date of completion, roughly. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was talking total budget, not annual budget. I apologize. I misunderstood.

Hay River is further ahead, and our intention is to break ground on there before Inuvik. We still have some ground work and other things to do in Inuvik. At the same time, we have been approached by community organizations in Inuvik, the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in, who want to have the same discussions and possibly create a partnership like Avens in Inuvik as well. We want to make sure we are doing our due diligence on that one as well. It is a great opportunity for the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in to run a facility and employ their people, just like there is in Hay River.

It is not in this plan yet, but we have also been approached by the chief of Liidlii Kue and the president of the Metis in Simpson, looking for similar-type arrangements. We want to do our due diligence, we want to be creative in provision, and we want to make sure we are empowering

communities and Indigenous people in the delivery of long-term care services, but we need to make sure that we get these beds out. The demand is there.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. Currently, there are still people working out of the site where this building is proposed. There needs to be demolition before we can break ground. It is my understanding that possibly we might need lab space, we might need clinical space to move the people out of where they currently are, which would require additional construction in Hay River. Where are we in terms of finding space for those people so that we can actually complete step one of this process? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, our priority, as the Health and Social Services system, is to ensure that our staff have adequate space to perform their duties as described in their job descriptions, but also have adequate space for client interaction, which includes meeting certain standards here and there.

We have shared and continue to work with Infrastructure as they explore options for different opportunities or facilities in Hay River. I know that staff from Infrastructure and staff from Health and Social Services went down and toured the health centre, as well as other facilities, to start formulating a plan.

This needs to happen yesterday. The department knows that I want this to happen yesterday, and they are working hard to make it a reality so that we can get out of H.H. Williams. It might be a couple more months.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have heard a lot about the possibility of partnering with other groups to create a plan. Can the Minister put together some sort of briefing note or something that he can share with me or with committee about what is going on? Right now, it is just whispers and murmurs, and I am not sure what is going on in my community in regards to this quite-large capital project. Would the Minister commit to that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, Mr. Chair. I will put something together. It is not just for Hay River. I will do it for Inuvik, Beau-Del, and I will do it for Simpson, as well. We have made better progress in Hay River and Inuvik. We have made almost no progress in the Deh Cho at this point. Yes, I will get something together. Maybe there is an opportunity to sit down with committee and have a conversation.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. I appreciate the cooperation. Nothing further, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Next, we have Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the long-term care facility upgrade, last item, page 34, I think we have seen this before. It is a carry-over from the previous year. Can the Minister say why this program wasn't completed in the last year? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It was never intended to be done in this fiscal year. We are intending to start, break ground, and start the construction. We have been working with Avens. A number of months ago, in a meeting between staff and the department, the COO at the time asked us to stand down and put the project on hold temporarily while they worked out some technical issues and some program issues that they wanted to deal with.

We have been encouraging them to move. We are ready to go. There are some questions that we need them to answer. We want to keep working with them. I understand there have been some changes at Avens. Hopefully, that will kick things off and we can start. We will have to carry some of this over due to the Avens request for some delay. We intend fully to get this done and break ground if not later this year, early, early next fiscal year.

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

MS. GREEN: Okay. I didn't find that answer very illuminating. My understanding is that this upgrade was in the last capital budget. It is now in the capital budget that begins in April of next year. When is this project going to happen? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a multi-year project that goes over many fiscal years. We had money last year to begin the process and do some planning and get some work done so that we would be prepared to break ground as early as possible. Like I said, the organization has asked us to stand down temporarily, which we have on their request. We are prepared to move forward when they are ready. Hopefully, we will break ground sooner than later, but it will likely be breaking ground probably in the next fiscal year due to these delays. We still have some planning work that we have to do with them. We are ready when they are. We are ready to work with them.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is no need to repeat all of the same answer a second time. How many years is this multi-year project? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The intention was a two-year project, starting in the previous fiscal year, \$3.9 million previous year, \$2.4 million this year. Due to the delays from the organization, we may end up having a carry-over there. We are trying really hard not to, but it may happen.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am trying to make sense of items 2 and 3, the Stanton Legacy Building, base building, modifications to make it ready. Then the next part is design and renovations. What is the difference between those two projects? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this first one, the base building adjustment, is actually very technical. It is very accounting-related. I am going to go to Mr. Heath to describe these two items.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green. [Microphone turned off] I was having a sidebar conversation there. Mr. Heath.

MR. HEATH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The base building modifications represent third-party investment in that building and is centred around the core mechanical electrical systems that prepare the building to receive tenant improvements. Again,

it is to third-party investment. Essentially, it is not real cash, but it is a third-party's investment in that.

The Stanton Legacy Building renovations are the actual tenant improvements. That is when we install the long-term care beds, the medical gasses, the systems and infrastructure that we need to have the tenants that are in that building operate it. There are two separate pieces. The first one is generally an accounting exercise that represents somebody else's investment in that asset. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. How much confidence does the Minister have that this base building work will be completed in the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The property manager and the individuals who have done the construction on Stanton have been very tight on their timelines. They have met their targets. We are looking to get the building when we said. We have every confidence that they are going to be able to do the leasehold improvements to the old facility that will get us in there as scheduled.

Once it is done, we still have to do a full stand-up as we do with all facilities. The day we take possession is not the day that we move in there. There will some work that still needs to be done to stand up the building. We are confident at this point that we should be getting into Stanton after the renovations, probably in 2021-2022.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay. I need to make sure that we are all talking about the same thing. It was my understanding that the base building analysis is happening on the old building and the renovations are happening on the old building. My question was about the confidence that the work will be completed on the old building in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and that renovations will then begin on schedule in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That is correct.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This side of the House proposed that there be a safe-house pilot project take place in the last fiscal year or in the current fiscal year, I think it was. We proposed it again for next year. Can the Minister give us an update on the status of that request? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe the Minister of Finance did send a letter to committee responding to that request. I don't have the letter in front of me. I kind of blanked on what was in there. Sorry. I am not feeling 100 percent today.

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

MS. GREEN: Nothing further on this page. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes. There are two line items here about the Stanton Legacy Building. When I go on the Stanton Renewal website, there is absolutely nothing on there about the legacy building. I have asked the Minister before about this. Who looks after the Stanton Renewal website? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is done by a team of multiple departments. I have already indicated to the Member that I have told the department to do some updates. They have indicated that they need to make sure that the information is all right so that it can be put in there in a way that is logical. They have indicated that work is being done. Hopefully, we will see it on the website shortly.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, it has been, I think, two months since I have raised this with the Minister. I have suggested other changes in the past to the website because that is the place where the public can find out about what is going on.

I know the intention is to sort of have some sort of a campus atmosphere and all of this about that area, but, if there's nothing available to the public other than if they happen to pick up the capital estimates about what's happening with the old building, that's not a very helpful way to do this. I'll take the

Minister at his word that those changes are going to get done, and I would look forward to the department working with whoever else they work with to get that website updated more regularly. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Looking at the 162 beds that are going to be made public here by the year 2022, it is all part of good essential planning in your capital direction on planning, also. I'm mindful of that. I'm glad to see that there is a plan to look after our elders. Also, the health centre designated for Tulita, I'm glad to see that's in the books there. It's always been the wishes of the Tulita leadership in working with the Housing Corporation on a senior's home similar to some other communities.

I'll throw this suggestion out to the Minister: if the old health centre could be looked at after the review process on the structural integrity of the building and a cost renovation plan estimate during the site, I'll see whether it could be turned into an elders' or seniors' building if the Minister could work with me on that as time goes on here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I know the Member is aware of our capital process and how we dispose of assets. When those facilities are empty, they will have to be obviously reviewed, checked, assessed to see if there's any life in those buildings. If there is, then obviously Health and Social Services would have an opportunity to say, "Do we have any use for it, or do we not have any use for it?" At this time for our program areas, we don't have the use for that facility that we have seen. However, that may change. We are always trying to maximize opportunity here.

When it comes to seniors' independent living units, the Housing Corporation has been an incredible partner in putting independent living units for seniors throughout the Northwest Territories. I'm sure that, you know, there's opportunity for conversation between the community, the MLA, and the appropriate Ministers, but we really can't make any assessment until we have a determination on whether that building has got any life in it. That won't be done until we get out of there. Thank you.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I welcome that opportunity to have future deliberations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a few questions here. I know, on the budget, it doesn't show Tsiigehtchic health centre, but I just want to bring awareness to the ongoing issues we have had with our health centre. I'm sure the Minister knows it's been ongoing over the last number of years. It's either the foundation or, you know, we have had major hiccups this spring here with the foundation work, and, you know, there's major infrastructure issues that happened in the building. I know it has been fixed to date, but it seems to be an ongoing issue for that facility. I would like to double check: when is the 20-year plan for replacement for this facility? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, a structural assessment was completed in May of 2018 by a structural engineer, at which time the building did not exhibit any major structural concerns. We were given the go-ahead to move back into the building. The building was declared safe to occupy.

We have had some individuals look at that building. It is in the 20-year needs assessment for replacement, but it doesn't appear in the short-term. I don't know the exact dates where it appears, but it's certainly not in the life of this government.

As another note, we had an opportunity to talk to some of the individuals who did. They said, after we did the fixes at the building, the building is looking to be in quite good condition at this point.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Blake? Nothing further from Mr. Blake. Seeing nothing further from committee, I will call this activity: Health and Social Services, community health programs, infrastructure investments, \$54,675,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Please return to page 30 for the departmental total. Health and Social Services, total capital estimates, \$62,578,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree this concludes

our consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we have next agreed to consider the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Minister, you may take your seat at the witness table. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister Cochrane, would you please introduce your witnesses to the House.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right is Ms. Sylvia Haener, who is deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment. On my left is Laura Gareau, assistant deputy minister of corporate services, Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Committee, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment begins on page 9. As always, we will defer the departmental totals until consideration of the activity summaries, the first of which is found on page 10 with an information item on page 11, culture, heritage and languages. To the activity. Seeing none, I will call this activity. Education, Culture and Employment, culture, heritage and languages, infrastructure investments, \$495,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 12. Early childhood and school services. There's an information item on page 13 with a project listing. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 13, it talks about Charles Yohin School, home economics room. Could the Minister please elaborate further on this project? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Excuse me if I get the name wrong. The Charles Yohin School is going to have a complete redesign and renovation to the home economics room, including custom millwork and specialized appliances because they don't have the spaces currently. That's the plans. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When they say "redesign and renovations," is the school classroom actually going to be renovated, or are they looking at adding an additional space to this facility? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is not an addition; it is a renovation, a redesigning and renovation of the space that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. Could the Minister commit to showing me the design? What I am looking at and what I visualize in the school, I don't know exactly what renovation is going to be happening. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

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

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The next one is Acho Dene School home economics room, again, renovation. Could the Minister expand a little further on this? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are focusing on home economics within this coming fiscal year, so we will be doing the same thing. The home economics room is going to get a complete redesign and renovation, including custom millwork and specialized appliances. The two schools are getting the exact same work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There seems to be some difference between the two projects. This one here, I am seeing it includes new lighting and sound system and ventilation. Can the Minister just confirm if that is actually happening in Echo Dene School? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the Echo Dene School will be getting a major renovation of six stations to meet the National Building Code of Canada, as well as to enhance the home economics program offered at the school. Proper lighting will need to be planned and installed, which may require a new ceiling. The current soundproofing and insulation are likely insufficient for the redesigned space, so we will need to redo that. In a building of this age, abatement might be an issue, so we are looking at doing electrical and probably a new ceiling. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I appreciate the clarification from the Minister. Can the Minister advise when these projects are going to be done? Is it going to be during the school year, or is it going to be focused this summer? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We don't have that knowledge at this point, but we will commit to providing that to the MLA by Monday at the latest. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my first question is about the Ecole J.H. Sissons, the new school. Can the Minister tell me how a new location for this school will be decided upon? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point, we are still in the process of doing the geotechnical report. I believe we have gotten it, but I haven't reviewed it yet. It is in our technical division at this point to look at it.

Once we decide on it, we will be meeting with the school board, YK1. We will be meeting with them first and working with them, and because it is a school that had a bit of contention, we probably will have a public meeting to relay the results to the parents of that school. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's right; there are parents whose children go to that school who have very definite views about whether the new school should be built in the playground and,

thus, keep the school intact and the children together, or whether the existing school should be blasted and the rebuild take place on that spot. I really encourage the Minister to hold that public meeting before making a decision.

Can she give me some timing around when the geotechnical report will be reviewed and the other meetings will take place? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do want to thank the MLA for bringing that forward. We are committing to doing a meeting with the parents; I just want to address on that. I know, in my heart, that there are going to be upset parents, because when we went there first, we have not got a consensus about parents. We are not going to get 100 percent satisfaction.

Like I had said earlier, addressing the question that was just asked, the technical report is just in the hands of our technical people. That should come across my desk, I would say, within the next couple of weeks at the latest. We just got it.

We haven't defined a date for the meeting of the parents and recognizing that I have a lot of work with the Aurora College at this point now, as well, but I can commit that we will meet with the parents before the end of the fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is the Minister facing a deadline to make some decisions in order to free up the spending in the next fiscal year through this budget? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We don't have a specific deadline at this point, because we are just reviewing the report. Within this projected budget that we are just presenting now, the capital, we are looking at the planning study.

We do need to get that parent feedback. We need to have it defined, this is where we are putting it, recognizing that not everybody is going to be happy, but the public needs to know, because the results of that will implement the planning that needs to go forward, the drafting, et cetera. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that response. The money that is going to be spent in the next fiscal year is money for planning. When will the ground be broken to start construction on this new school? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The ground will be broken, or we will finally have a place, and the construction will begin in the fiscal year 2020-2021. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you for that. I appreciate that. My next question, on the same page, is about the NWT Educator Certification and Learning Platform. Can the Minister please describe this project?

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Educator Certification and Learning Platform, previously, it was very timely and cumbersome actually making sure that people had the proper certification, keeping track of their current learning, et cetera.

This system is about making sure that we are accountable, that we have the infrastructure, the technology, in place so that we can, in a timely manner, make sure that teachers who apply for jobs have the proper certification to provide the services to our students and that their training that is taken throughout is updated on a regular basis. It centralizes it. It takes away the cumbersome paperwork, lost records, and huge delays in ensuring certification.

This is about making sure that we have the tools to be able to do our services within a best practice framework. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, if I understand correctly, then, this is to make sure that teachers who are hired are appropriately certified, and then to track their professional development, and that, until now, this has been done on paper. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you. Yes and no. Yes, a lot was done on paper. However, they were using computers, using Excel spreadsheets, et cetera. So, yes, paper, but still

using computers. This is a system, and we need to have the proper systems, that will network all of them together. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green? Nothing further from Ms. Green. Next, I have Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm looking forward to replacement of the Kaw Tay Whee school, in Detah, and looking at all of the renovations, new schools, upgrades across the territory. I want to ask the Minister a question on the capital standards for NWT schools. Capital standards for NWT schools were put out, well, these standards are from 2005. I'm wondering, with all of the new education renewal and what not, if the department is considering a revision to the capital standards for NWT schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, currently, we are right in the process now of reviewing our capital standards for all our schools throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand why it's being done, but I'm wondering if, inside the capital standards, the department is taking into account potential as we try to move into more employment-based communities, if inside the capital standards the department is looking at daycares? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just confirming with my department. When I first took over this position, actually and that's my background, which is in early childhood development specializing within the Social Work area, I talked about having schools as hubs in communities and having daycare providers, having speech pathologists and audiologists being able to be in schools, making it a centre or a hub, or that some parents, hopefully, would alleviate some of the residential fears that come with schools, trauma that comes with that, making it more of a hub.

I'm really pleased to report that our department has listened and that they are looking at the possibility of daycares and actually bringing our schools into more community hubs rather than just a stand-

alone school. So, thank you, Mr. Chair, and I am proud of my department. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, now, to be more specific, I'd like to ask the Minister: I'm aware that the Minister and the department are discussing private partners with the YK Dene band and the expansion of the Ndilo school or the Kalemi Dene School for a gymnasium and a couple of classrooms, I believe; a lab and a classroom, I believe. I'd like to ask the Minister if I could get some sort of indication on how those discussions are going and how far into the future is she expecting that project to begin? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we are working closely with the YK Dene First Nations to actualize their vision, and I like their vision. It talks about making it a hub, it talks about making a bigger gym, it talks about making it a centre of their community; and so, I'm fully in support of that.

We did have a vacant position that's just getting filled, but that shouldn't impact that. What I need to do, myself, too, is contact the Yellowknife Dene First Nation, and I will commit to doing that as soon as possible, to sit down with them again and make sure that they're still on track, and to see what kind of support they need so that we can move this forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, moving on to the second school, Kaw Tay Whee in Detah, my understanding from dealing with the leadership over there is that the department has requested that chief and council select a site, a potential location, for that new school. Being at that stage with the discussions between the department and the leadership, I'm wondering if the Minister could give me an indication of when that project might start. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, we have met with them on that school. We are advancing with the planning study. Again, I want to make sure that we access the best resources for them. So, we do have it planned that we will be beginning in 2021. I like their idea of looking for a P3 project. I like their idea of maybe

working with some of their access to federal money. It is planned for 2021, but I want to make sure that we're doing it to meet the needs of the Aboriginal government. I will support them as much as possible to make this a P3 project or a project that can expand on that school. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the files I inherited from my predecessor was the school in Colville Lake. And I'm glad to see it's now on the books. Having been there several times and witnessing the children taking their classroom with bookshelves dividing the classroom, given the site visit that I saw, the state of the building, the state of the environment, I'm truly glad to see this is on the books. I know the Minister has had leadership meetings with the community, and the feeling that I get is that they're happy finally, after several years of efforts, this has come into fruition. So I'm glad to see it in the capital plan.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely for that comment. Anything further from committee? Seeing none, I will call this item. Education, Culture and Employment, early childhood and school services, infrastructure investments, \$16,963,000. Does committee agree? Committee, please turn to page 14 and 15 with the project listing for labour development and advanced education. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have lots of needs in Tu Nedhe-Willideh. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister about community learning centres. Currently, we have a new community learning centre in Lutselk'e. That was very good for the community. It was used as a good back-up classroom for when they were renovating the school. So I think the community is pleased with that.

The two other communities that have community learning centres are in very old buildings. The one in Ndilo, and I think I'll speak on the two separately or ask questions separately, Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask the Minister: what is the plan for replacement of the community learning centre in Ndilo? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When I was actually reviewing the report that was done on the Aurora College foundational review, I did realize that most of the infrastructure within the Aurora College, which community learning centres are a part of, needed to be updated; they needed to be reviewed. We need to put a priority as soon as we have the people, the

management team, in place. We need to prioritize going through every community learning centre. It's not only the infrastructure, but it's also looking at: what are they providing now, what supports do they need, and what are their potentials? We need a full review of all of the capital assets within the Aurora College, including community learning centres. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, I don't know the age of the community learning centre in Ndilo, and I know it's old, but I do know approximately, I mean within a couple of years, how old the learning centre in Fort Resolution is, and my guess is that it's in excess of 50 years old. I used to serve at the settlement council office when I was a child, growing up in Fort Resolution. It's been renovated, and the walls are getting thicker all the time. This has received a considerable amount of renovation. There's no question about it. I think it's time to replace the building.

I would like to ask the Minister: if on again not-so-long of a range plan, when would that community learning centre in Fort Resolution be replaced? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sad to hear that it's 50 years old. I mean I know that lifespan within the GNWT was around 45 years. However, in saying that, I've been here for many years, and I know that there are old buildings that are over 50 years that are still standing and still strong. Like I said, what we need to do is we have capital plans for Education, Culture and Employment's infrastructure over a 20-year period. We don't have that currently for Aurora College, so it's a piece of information that we need to compile. We need to look at every single infrastructure asset that we have within our post-secondary education and develop a 20-year plan, just like we have for our departments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm sure the community will be pleased to hear of that review. I have no further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Education, Culture and Employment, labour development and advanced education, infrastructure investments, \$200,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please return to the departmental total on page 9. Education, Culture and Employment, total capital estimates, \$17,658,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Minister, you may vacate the witness stand.

Committee, we have next agreed to consider the Department of Justice, which begins on page 48 of the capital estimates. I will ask the Minister of Justice to take his place at the witness table. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses.

We are just getting everything sorted out here. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses to the House.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left is Mandi Bolstad, director of corporate services. To my right is Martin Goldney, deputy minister. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Sebert. We will open the floor for questions. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we have moved into the department detail, the first section I see here is corrections. I see that there is a perimeter fence for the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre. It's half a kilometre long, 15 feet high. Can I get some detail about this piece of infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Minister Sebert.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. As committee Members will know, we will be looking at South Mackenzie Correctional Centre as a therapeutic community based on the Guthrie House model that some of us have had the opportunity to attend in British Columbia. One of the things that would be necessary in that change would be to enhance the security of SMCC. An important part of that, in fact the important part, would be the perimeter fence. If we wish to complete this transition, it's necessary that we enhance security. The most important part of that, as I say, is the fence. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Before we go on here, just for the record, I want to mention on page 48, we are going

to defer this total and regain our questions on the first activity, starting on page 49. It's supported in the information on page 50. Having said that, Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for that clarification. It sounds like this is related to an operational program, so I might have some questions about that program. The Minister indicated that maybe additional renovations required to increase the security levels. Can the Minister elaborate on that? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand there are some minor changes within the facility itself that would be necessary to raise its status to the status required to be a model or a program like Guthrie House. Thank you.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. For years, I have been asking the Minister why SMCC isn't used to remand prisoners. Would these renovations allow it to be used as a remand facility? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. Thank you. Certainly, the enhancements that we have spoken of would allow a higher risk of offender in there, but I don't think we would be planning to have remands in there. Perhaps Mr. Goldney could elaborate on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Deputy minister, carry on.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The security enhancements planned for SMCC would allow for higher-risk offenders. The primary driver for this work, though, is the transition to the therapeutic community model, which would allow more of our inmate population to take advantage of that kind of programming and that kind of setting. It would have the added benefit, though, of allowing greater flexibility and transfers among our facilities, if required, of those higher-risk offenders. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, deputy minister Goldney. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. I was asking about remand because it is always good to have a Plan B. Just in case this program doesn't work out, I want to make sure that these renovations aren't for naught.

I would like to know a little bit about this program because I imagine this is a large capital cost, and we don't want to just start building things without having a plan here. Could the Minister please discuss this program a little bit? Will the correctional facility be at capacity, and will all the inmates there be in this program? Is that the plan? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. What we are doing now is finalizing program design. I don't think the current inmates there would necessarily end up there once we have made this transition. I assume that the inmates that would want to take advantage of this program would be drawn from throughout the system, but I will let Mr. Goldney add to that if he wishes. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Deputy minister Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do anticipate the utilization levels to vary with the circumstances of each of the inmates in our population at any given time, but the numbers that we have been looking at have indicated a fairly consistent steady base of eligible inmates for the programming, but we are looking at programming that is addressed, not just at addictions, although that will be a focus, but also programming for violent offenders as well, who might be treated better through this therapeutic community model. We are very confident that there are the numbers there to support this type of model. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, deputy minister Goldney. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. Will there be a segregation of the population who is being treated in the addictions stream, essentially, from the violent offenders? I know that, at Guthrie House, everyone is in the program, and I think that you would want everyone in the program here, because if there are people who are trying to overcome addictions, and then there are people who are sneaking joints over the 15-foot fence, that could be counterproductive. Could I get some clarification? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Deputy minister Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The facility would be shared. There might be different programming available and different counselling sessions available for various groups within the facility, but it is very much planned to be a shared

facility for all of the participants in this therapeutic community model. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, deputy minister Goldney. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Has this been attempted elsewhere?

My concern is that we are going to spend this money, and we are going to try and create a program that is not really a proven or effective program. We need to start going all in on things and making sure that they are going to succeed. I don't want to see this not succeed, and that is my main concern.

Is there some evidence that this type of program, not just based on Guthrie House, because this is clearly different, is there some evidence that this type of program is effective? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you. I think those of us who had the opportunity of visiting Guthrie House were impressed by what they are doing there. We are hopeful that the same sort of therapeutic model would also work here. I don't believe, and perhaps Mr. Goldney can help me with this, I am not aware of any smaller jurisdictions that have attempted this model, but there may be other places across Canada that have. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Deputy minister Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and we very much share the Member's desire to see this succeed, and we are looking at models in place, not just the Guthrie House model, but taking lessons learned from other institutions, including many in the States that have used this therapeutic community type model, beyond just the addictions setting. Certainly, that will be a focus. I don't want to suggest that that is shifting, but what we are planning is to utilize this tool more broadly where it makes sense, and we will be relying on expert assessments and evaluations for the inmates and professional staff to ensure that the programming meets the needs of those that it is intended to serve. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, deputy minister Goldney. In recognition of time, Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to follow up on some questions that Mr. Simpson talked about. I had the opportunity to visit Guthrie House.

I guess my first question is: how are you going to deal with people who are on addictions and, I guess, higher-end inmates? Could you explain further why there is not a segregation of these two? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. I think the point is that we want to make full utilization of the building, and we are not very sure of the numbers that might want to go there strictly for addictions. Perhaps Mr. Goldney could assist further. I think the important thing is: we are contemplating some large capital costs here, but we want to make sure that the building is utilized properly. Mr. Goldney.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Deputy minister Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, there will be a focus on addictions and programming directed for those with that need. We do recognize that there is a significant portion of our inmate population that can benefit from that type of programming, but we also took the opportunity to look at the other needs that might be addressed through this therapeutic community model of programming and recognized quite quickly that this has the potential to better serve not just those struggling with addictions and the issues that they are facing there, but other issues as well. The plan is to utilize this therapeutic community to the best of our abilities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, deputy minister Goldney. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to go back a little further in regard to utilizing this facility better or using it to its maximum capacity or increasing the capacity of this facility and that. Can the Minister tell us: the present facility, what is the occupancy? Is it shorter, or are there more numbers to it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you. I don't have the exact numbers in front of me, but currently, SMCC meets the needs of minimum security inmates. Again, these numbers are available, I just don't happen to have them available in front of me. I don't know how near capacity the facility is. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess that is really concerning, that we are looking at modifying or using this facility, and they don't even

know what the capacity is and how it is being utilized and that.

I guess my next question is: the Minister talked about how it is low security inmates in there presently. By building this fence, 15 feet, are we going to see more higher-end inmates in this facility, more at risk, more violent inmates in this community? Can the Minister answer that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, certainly, as the security enhancements take place, we could house inmates that are higher security. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I guess the next question is because this is going away from the Guthrie House model. We were talking about dealing with addictions and treatment and that, now we're talking about putting maximum security or going higher than minimum security into this community. So has the department actually reached out to the community and said this is what's going to be happening? Because this is not really a Guthrie model concept. The Guthrie model concept is to segregate the prisoners so they're on their addiction treatment area. I understand we're talking about family violence and working with that, but that puts the inmate in a different category; instead of minimum security, it's up to maximum security. So has the department talked to the community about this potential? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't know what communications there have been with the community, generally, but I know there have been discussions which are going to be ongoing as soon as a week or two from now, again, with the staff. My understanding -- and it's second-hand, of course -- is that the staff is quite enthused about this change in the facility. And just to point out, Guthrie House is not minimum security. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister is correct, and it's great that the staff are excited about it, but has he talked to the community of the town of Hay River? Those are the people that are going to see it go from minimum security, to medium, to maximum security inmates in this community now. So has the Minister, as part of the

plan that has been worked out, has he talked to the community about this? Because this is a large chunk of money that we're investing in this community, and if there are some concerns and we're not actually doing a Guthrie House model, I'm concerned that we're not actually doing what we said we are trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. While not exactly like Guthrie House, it really is based on the Guthrie model. As I mentioned, my understanding is the staff, who are, of course, all, I would assume, from the community, have seemingly bought into this concept of changing the facility over. No, I don't think I've received any direct communications from the town one way or the other on this, but I would imagine the town would be aware of it since all of the staff or virtually all of the staff that works there would be from the community. I think this issue has been raised in the House before, so it's not as though this should come as a surprise to the community. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, here we go, government expecting other people to get that information out to it. I'm asking the Minister will you make a commitment now to tell the town of Hay River this is what we're trying to do and how we're changing it? And it's not a Guthrie House, it's a model and some of the concepts to it. So let's be honest, it's not a Guthrie House model, we are not segregating the inmates, we are looking at putting this facility in there and doing different programming. And my understanding, you'll have minimum to maximum security people in this facility. So, again, the model or the facility that was used there was for minimum security people. Now they're going to see more individuals in there for medium security. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Sebert, to the question.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we implement and move forward with this, I certainly would be prepared to communicate with a town council, send them a letter as to our plans and targets. Guthrie House is not a minimum-security facility. It simply isn't. As I say - this will not exactly be like Guthrie House, but one of the things that impressed me there, and I'm doubtless it would have impressed others, is that those that end up at Guthrie House have to be highly motivated before they're accepted into the program, and hopefully that would be the same here. So we would have people, admittedly inmates, perhaps some of them

as a higher security level, that would be motivated to make changes in their lives. That seems to be an excellent idea to me. I mean, we always talk about how much recidivism, and so on, we have in the system, and this is a way to reduce that on a model that has proven to be successful in British Columbia. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Time is up there, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the issue here is that there's a capital ask, and we don't really know details of a plan. So would the Minister commit to providing the details of this plan with timelines for implementation for some substantiation for its proposed effectiveness? And could he make this document publicly available? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, we'd be prepared to do that, and also, to appear in front of committee if requested. Thank you.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, and last question just so I get a better idea of the costs because it seems like this fence is the lynchpin, and once this goes then everything else starts. So I assume that because we're moving to a therapeutic model, we will need more staff that are trained, either psychologists, counsellors, and those type of individuals. So is there going to be an additional staff compliment that will also further increase these costs? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As I say, the current staff has, I've heard, bought into this change, but perhaps I could defer the question to Mr. Goldney and he could expand on my answer. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Deputy minister Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the things that intrigued us a lot about the Guthrie House model was our ability to transfer that model with the resources we have already at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, where there has been investment in counsellors and training and programming specific to addictions and a psychologist on staff. So as the implementation work continues, there will be some further program design and training of existing staff, but at this

point, we don't anticipate additional hiring of staff. We anticipate retraining the existing staff to deliver programs under this model. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, deputy minister Goldney. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, what I saw at Guthrie House and what the Minister's been describing are not the same thing. And so, it's resulted in considerable confusion for me. I want to just break it down into pieces. So piece number one is that Guthrie House is a separate entity, a fenced entity within a medium security correctional facility called the Nanaimo Correctional Centre. So it's separate. It is its own entity. Is that the concept for this therapeutic community in the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is the concept. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Okay. Thanks for that clarification. Another key point about Guthrie House is that it is run in partnership with the John Howard Society. Who will be the partner in the South Mackenzie Therapeutic Community? Thank you.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The plan today is to have the programming delivered by the existing staff. We do recognize that the John Howard Society in British Columbia plays a key role in both the programming and the after-care. We do have, as it happens, staff visiting officials with the John Howard Society next week to talk about some of the training opportunities that might be available to support our own transition and to support some of the challenges or help address some of the challenges that we foresee in the after-care component of the programming. Some of those partners, we recognize, it may take time to find and build that capacity, but that is certainly an area of focus right now so we can be able to deliver the program as quickly as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In order to be part of the Guthrie House community, the people have to -- the men, it is all men. The men have to have at least four months left in their sentence. They have to undergo drug testing and be

committed to their sobriety using an abstinence model, an AA model. They also have to be assessed by their peers. The residents of Guthrie House have a lot of say over who comes in to Guthrie House and whether they end up staying there. Their job is really to ensure the fidelity of the community, that it lives up to its principles. Is that going to be the model used in the South Mackenzie? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. We may have some differences from that exact model, but generally speaking, it will be the same type of model. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The really important point about that model is that the inmates, or they prefer to be called residents, hold one another accountable for their behaviour and for their progress through treatment towards discharge, to finishing their sentences and being discharged. Is that the parallel that is being considered for the South Mackenzie where inmates hold one another responsible for their behaviour? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Absolutely. That is a key part of the therapeutic community that we are envisioning, so yes. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Okay. That is good news. Now, the other part that really impressed me when I was there is that the people in the Guthrie House were planning for the end of their sentence and their discharge back into the community pretty much from the time they arrived. Their most important piece to organize was accommodation, that they needed to find somewhere to live. That is where John Howard was very helpful to the inmates or residents, as I understand. How will that portion of reintegrating people who have achieved sobriety into stable housing and a stable situation, how will that part work? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. I think all of us who had the opportunity of visiting Guthrie House were impressed by the after-care element in that there were organizations that were assisting and also graduates, if I can put it that way. Of course,

initially, we won't have the support of graduates because, well, there won't be any graduates until we have our first class through, if I can put it that way.

Accommodation, yes. That is going to be an issue that we have thought about and do have concerns about, particularly those who are returning to some of the smaller communities where housing is a real issue. Perhaps Mr. Goldney can give his thoughts with respect to some of these after-care issues. Thank you.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do want to recognize that that is one of the challenges that we have identified. That is, frankly, a challenge we face now. We do work with all the inmates now to plan for reintegration almost immediately up their intake. We do work to try and set up inmates upon their release for the best prospects of success. You know, it often is a very difficult challenge. We do anticipate that there might be a greater receptiveness among community members and family for assisting these folks as they are coming out because they have demonstrated that personal commitment to seek those types of improvements.

I think it is a reasonable expectation that some of those challenges, at least one of those key challenges of successfully reintegrating inmates, is, you know, there is often a reluctance to find accommodations. We think, by demonstrating that personal commitment to complete a program like this, that hopefully will address some of the barriers. We do recognize, though, that this will continue to be a challenge and something that we will continue to have to work on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would be interested to know if the department is working with the Department of Health and Social Services. They are working on this Addictions Recovery Action Plan, which looks at the recommendations that committee made about after-care, including not discharging people from an institutional setting, whether a jail or a treatment centre or a hospital, into homelessness. I am wondering if they are working alongside Health and Social Services on that issue. Thank you.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know we are working with our colleagues, and they have been involved in some of the program design work.

I can't comment specifically on whether or not the release into homelessness and those supports have been addressed. I do know that we have been working closely with Health and Social Services and sharing not just our planned programming, but there is interest in some of the modular programming that we are delivering through Correction Services and Probation Services, as well. We do recognize that there is tremendous value in furthering that partnership. We do anticipate that as we try and address our shared challenges, that we will continue to work with Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that partnership is really important. The people need the same kind of supports. They are coming from different places to after-care. They might be coming out of a treatment program rather than out of jail, but they need the same kind of services to maintain their sobriety and successfully reintegrate into the community. I am glad to hear they are working together. Just back to the beginning of this, which is the fence, how does the fence work into this? Is it necessary to make South Mackenzie into a medium-security jail? Or is it to section off the therapeutic model part? I am still not 100 percent with the fence. Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. The fence is needed to turn the facility into a medium-custody facility, just as Guthrie House is in British Columbia, which is part of the Nanaimo Correctional Centre. This is a necessary change if we wish to move to this model. As I say, we are optimistic about moving to the model, optimistic that we will get results. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. If it changes to medium security, what happens to the minimum-security residents? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you. It is important to remember that we do have other facilities in Yellowknife and in Fort Smith. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Is the Minister saying that these inmates who are minimum security are going to be moved to Yellowknife or Fort Smith?

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: My understanding, subject to being corrected here, is that there could be minimum people in the program. However, many of the minimum security inmates are serving very short sentences and that's not the sort of sentence that would fit into this type of program. Perhaps Mr. Goldney can add or correct that if I've made an error. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Perhaps, Mr. Goldney, you could point out if there are other minimum security facilities in the territory where these minimum security inmates could go. Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our facility in Yellowknife is multi-level security, so it could accommodate from minimum to the higher security, as can Fort Smith. We do anticipate that there might be inmates who would normally be minimum security sentence offenders who, absent the therapeutic community programming, would be sent to Hay River. The reality is, if we transform that institution into a therapeutic community, it will be reserved for inmates eligible for that therapeutic community model and programming. If they are not participating in that program, we would have to find spaces for them in our other facilities.

Just to be clear, a minimum security offender could be eligible for the programming through a therapeutic community in Hay River.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister and Mr. Goldney for that answer.

The Guthrie model was minimum of four months, that you have to be in the program for four months. Minimum security, how is that going to work? Usually it's less than three months. Can the Minister advise how those individuals are going to be part of it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Although minimum security generally are those that receive shorter sentences, that's quite correct. There certainly would be some, I imagine, that would be minimum security that would receive four

months or more. Perhaps not that many, but there would be some. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you look at the people that serve time, you know, two thirds of their time, realistically you need somebody that's going to get six months in minimum security do the full time. That's, you know, maxed out, good behaviour, and that. How is that going to help people that may be minimum security that, you know, get less than three months but need this or want to be part of this process?

I know, when we were at Guthrie House, some of the residents said straight up that this here, they asked for more time. They said, "Whoa, we don't want to go anywhere. We want to stay. We want to finish the program." How are we able to do that with this program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, in my long experience, not too many ask for more time. I understand what you're saying. I mean we couldn't keep people in there who weren't serving a sentence. Obviously, they would have to avail themselves of other programs.

As I say, there would probably have to be a minimum amount of time that they are going to be in the facility so that the program would work, but certainly they could be informed of possible programs after they leave whichever facility they are in. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm going on to another topic here because I'm still a little concerned right now. Could he explain about the probation office tenant improvements for the community of Fort Liard?

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I think I'm told that that's to align the office security with the acceptable standards of 2018. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: I'm just looking through my notes here. I have one more about the fence issue here. Just so I understand this correctly, inmates who are minimum security will be now mixed with

medium or maximum security inmates. Is this correct? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, that certainly is possible, that prisoners with different designations would be mixed together, but I think that that wouldn't be such a big problem because you have to be motivated to want to enter the program. Hopefully, we would have motivated people from whatever security designation: minimum, medium, or maximum. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister just advise us of what minimum, medium, or maximum involves in the Northwest Territories? Are we talking one day less two years is your maximum? Is that where you you're at? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I don't have a chart or something along those lines, but common sense tells me that it's not necessarily the length of the sentence that determines which designation you would fall into. It's probably the type of offence, the record, are likely a major part in deciding which category incoming inmates fall into. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess common sense and hope would be that we'd be able to see something of a plan. Is this part of the plan? Is this information going to be provided? I'm sorry if I missed when you were answering Mr. Simpson's answer to that, but is there a plan that's available to explain to committee exactly how this program is going to work? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly, we would be willing to share with committee. We would be very pleased to appear in front of committee to discuss this matter, our plans. We are working on program design at this time. We will be pleased also to discuss what training we are contemplating for the staff. Yes, we're very happy to appear in front of committee, should they wish. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Earlier, the Minister agreed to produce a detailed

plan with timelines and present it publicly. Thank you. Mr. Thompson, nothing further?

Seeing nothing further, I will call this activity. Justice, corrections, infrastructure investments, \$4 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 51, court services. Justice, court services. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have noticed that there is another project here for the Yellowknife Courthouse. I'm wondering if the Minister can speak to the feasibility study that's going into the potential stand-alone courthouse here, in the city of Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know this is a long-standing concern to certainly the bar and bench. I can advise that we are working on a business case. That should be available by the end of November, at which point we could appear in front of committee and share that with them. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will take that as a commitment from the Minister. How many more resources are we going to expend up on this building that we currently rent from a private landlord? This is \$341,000. There has been significantly more than that expended in the past. Are we going to continue to put millions of dollars into someone else's property, or are we going to complete these renos that are before us now, and then move on with a stand-alone courthouse? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. Our plan is to complete these current renovations that I know that committee might feel is throwing good money after bad, but even if we do move to a new stand-alone courthouse, and that is yet to be determined, clearly, it would take some time to build that or make those arrangements. I think we are going to be using the current Yellowknife courthouse for some period of time into the future, and we need to make sure that it is usable and up-to-date as possible.

Certainly, I hear the Member's concerns about putting additional money into a building we don't own. I hear you. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is nice to be heard. We spend a lot of time speaking in this House, so it is nice that the Minister is taking this matter seriously. I look forward to seeing the feasibility study. I appreciate that this appropriation is largely to improve the quality of service available at the Yellowknife courthouse to those seeking mediation and, also, to improve security conditions for the staff there, and for those reasons, I am supportive of this.

My only concern is that if we are spending money in a feasibility study, let's make sure that it is actually going somewhere and not just a project we are going to shelve, like we have already done with a Yellowknife courthouse project. If we can avoid that in the future and actually make a decision about this, I know that can be difficult, but we are the only jurisdiction in Canada without a stand-alone courthouse. My understanding, as well, is that the federal government has contributed to courthouse projects in the past, so I think that there are options out there for the Minister to consider.

I know the proposal is taking the P3 approach, so I look forward to that coming proposal, because, quite frankly, every study we have done on our situation with the Yellowknife Courthouse has shown that it is not good value for money, and that is one of the reasons we are here, to protect the taxpayer's interest and ensure that we have good value for money in our projects. This appropriation, if we continue to do this, I don't think it is good value for money. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Justice, court services, infrastructure investments, \$341,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 48. I will call the departmental total. Justice, total capital estimates, \$4,341,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we have agreed to next consider the NWT Housing Corporation, which begins on page

66 of the capital estimates. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Moses, would you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my left is Tom Williams, president and CEO of the NWT Housing Corporation, and on my right is Mr. Jim Martin, vice president, finance and infrastructure for the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. There is a single item in this department. We will defer the departmental total. Actually, committee, just to get things right here, does committee agree with that we have concluded consideration of the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will now move on to the Housing Corporation. The total capital estimates are on page 66, but the detail starts on page 67. There is a project listing on page 68. I will start the questions with Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 68, it talks about the LHO office and warehouse in Fort Liard. Can the Minister elaborate on that? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member knows and brought this up on a few occasions, asking for investments to an LHO office in Fort Liard, we have put it into the capital budget, and we will be moving forward with that project. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I thank the Minister for that and ensuring that this is a worthwhile project. I know that the Housing Corporation has been doing some good work in getting the office going there. This is a nice step forward.

I see a number of major renovations in Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, and Wrigley. Can the Minister just elaborate a little further on those renovations, please? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Just kind of general overview, when we look at our capital planning process, we do look at our public housing stock.

Once they get over the age of 40 years old, we look at replacing them, and then we also do some M and I, which is modernization and improvement, when the units reach the age of 20 and 35 years old.

Other factors that we consider are unit condition rating and the operating performance of the units. Just in general, any questions that come on how the capital planning process is selected, that is how we identify them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. Mr. Chair, can the Minister advise, when they are doing these major retrofits and that, how does that impact the clients or the people using these facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we do the major retrofits, if it doesn't impact the client or the tenant, they can stay in the unit. If it will impact them, then we try to find a replacement unit for them while we do the major retrofit on the units themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that clarification. That is very helpful to understand.

I noticed in the plan here that there are no market rent units being put into some of the Nahendeh riding communities. Can the Minister advise when the communities will start seeing the market rent units come into some of these facilities, please? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is based on the annual assessment of need right across the territory, and in the Member's riding, we have identified a couple of market rental units, and we will have discussions moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I appreciate that answer from the Minister. In regards to Samba K'e, we have known there are a number of units that are vacated, boarded up, or not being utilized, and the community has been looking at trying to

access those facilities. What is the corporation's plan for those facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALBERT MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe Samba K'e isn't on the list here for a replacement. One thing that I do want to let the Member know is that, in some cases, you are not going to see some communities on the acquisition list. That's because there are unit condition ratings if the units are over 70 percent or the community had significant past investments in the last couple of years. There might be some vacancies in the units as well. We do it on a needs assessment. Every community, we do take a look at in terms of what is needed. I know, in terms of Samba K'e, we have put some investments in the past. All the current units that they have are over 70 percent.

If the leadership are looking at those boarded-up units, one thing I have done since I have been Minister in working with some of the leadership is get them in touch with the district office to have them start up those conversations. I would encourage the leadership to contact our district office. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I appreciate the Minister's answer for that. I will be getting a hold of leadership in Samba K'e to reach out to the district manager in Nahendeh there. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I would like to thank the department for a trip that we had made to do some strategy housing discussions here by the Deline Got'ine Government on October the 5th. It was very informative and appreciated by the leadership and me.

Just adding to my colleague from Nahendeh's statement here about these boarded-up units, there are actually two different types in most of the communities that I represent. I see boarded-up units that could be referred to as the "ex-homeownership units" under the HELP program. The tenants or the occupants by default are under mortgage, so those units are sitting there. Some of them, I do believe, are still very structurally sound buildings. I just saw one on our last trip to Deline there where I think if a replacement of under the program to replace the fuel tank. I noticed the meter was gone off at the building. That has to be recertified. It's probably going to cost in the

neighbourhood of \$6,000 to \$8,000 to get power hooked up in those units.

If the department in their capital initiatives for this year's capital plan could do an inventory of those types of units and see what it will take to bring them back into the marketplace here for future tenants, in some cases there, the boarded-up units have been taken off at the windows and the doors and snow has collected inside. That tells me that the floor insulation is probably damaged. I'm just encouraging the department if they can do an inventory assessment of all these units and all the communities, not the public housing units, but the ex-HELP units or the ex-homeownership units, then we can decide how many units we have out there, in which communities, and part of the inventory could include what it will take to renovate them to put them back into the marketplace here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Member's comments, and I appreciate working with the leadership as well and going in and having those initiative discussions. We also do have the fuel tank replacement program. He mentioned something on the fuel tanks there.

In terms of inventory and investments, we do have a community support initiative program that I believe are already working with the leadership on how that is going to kind of unfold, as well as the community housing plans that I had mentioned numerous times in the House here, that, if they look at creating a housing plan for the community, that might be something that they will identify. I know our staff is already working with them on that community housing initiative support program. Hopefully, we will see some good things out of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will also suggest, as part of the inventory, we can include an assessment of the outstanding mortgage of that particular unit, as well as the appraised value of the unit, so we can determine what it's going to cost from that point. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In some cases, when we look at some of the units and if they are beyond repair, what we would do is dispose of the unit and just do a new build if it's beyond repair. I just let the Member know that

instead of putting all that work through and take the rest of his comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Next, I have Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, could the Minister tell us how many new units will be built in the next fiscal year, anywhere in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you look on the acquisition list there, the second one from the bottom, you will see a seniors' mixed rent complex. We are looking up to 25 new units for that one in particular. That will be both a mixed market and a public house complex. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the clarification that that's 25 units. I note that there are, if I understand this correctly, four units of market housing in Ulukhaktok and two in Hay River, so the total then is 31 units next year. Is that correct?

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is correct.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister tell us what kind of a dent that is going to make in our core housing need in the area of availability? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Obviously, with the new units, it is going to make a dent in terms of core housing needs, but you are going to have to look at some of the other programs that we are doing within the NWT Housing Corporation. I did field some questions in the House during this session about core housing needs and meeting our goal of 250. I mentioned to Members that we are well beyond that with various programs. We are developing a document that we will share to Members to show how we are adjusting core housing need in many areas throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister compiling and sharing that document. We know that one dimension of core housing need is to address overcrowding, which is acute in some communities. The houses are very overcrowded, and the only way to un-crowd them is to provide more houses. I'm interested to know: 31 units and not in the most crowded areas, which are in the Tlicho area, how this is going to address that dimension of core need if he has that information to hand. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. By putting these new units, it will help alleviate some of the overcrowding. We don't know the full details or the data of how many people are living in overcrowded houses, but we do know that it is an issue, and we are trying to address it in various ways.

We are also working with the private sector with their investments, looking at building multi-family units and looking at other ways that we can just address the issue. Obviously, we are also looking at a homelessness initiative and other programs within the Housing Corporation. That's about it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Minister can find information on overcrowding in the 2014 Community Housing Survey. That is broken down by community, how many households in each community are experiencing overcrowding. That information is fairly easy to access.

As far as other initiatives to create more housing, could the Minister elaborate on what work is going on with the private sector? Thank you.

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

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our program that we are rolling out with the private sector is in Fort Simpson, where there is a huge need for market units. We have a private developer that has entered into an arrangement to bring in three duplexes into Fort Simpson to help alleviate the market needs in Fort Simpson. The delivery is supposed to be in this fiscal year. One unit is already on stream in the community. It came in before the ferry shut down. The other two will be delivered when the ice roads open. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. I appreciate the detail on that. What is the Housing Corporation's role in the development of these market units? Are they buying the units, and they are going to be the landlord for them? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do provide support under the Rural and Remote Housing program.

Just a little bit further onto what our president and CEO had mentioned on the previous question, we are also closely working with the federal government to hopefully finalize shortly. We are very encouraged with the discussions on our bilateral agreements moving forward, and the co-investment fund, to see how we can all work together to address getting some new builds and building infrastructure in the communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I feel like the housing bilateral agreement is like the Sasquatch; there have been sightings, but no confirmation. We are all looking forward to seeing that.

It leads me to my next question. The question is whether the initiatives in the housing agreement will require matching or any amount of funding from the NWT government in the way that other infrastructure is being matched, 25 percent from GNWT, 75 percent from Ottawa. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through you, I would ask our vice president, who has been heavily involved in the file, to get some of the details. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister Moses. Vice President Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister mentioned, the Housing Corporation is nearing the conclusion of the negotiations for this bilateral agreement. Under that agreement, it is anticipated that there will be a few main components with distinct programs within that agreement.

The Housing Corporation has completed a preliminary assessment of the cost-sharing needs and believes that, for the most part, the cost-sharing details are now available. There are still

some components, however, where we do need to follow up and conclude those negotiations to have certainty on the balance of the arrangement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. Where in this budget do we find the cost-sharing, or if it isn't in this budget, how is that cost-shared money going to be brought online? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Ms. Green. Vice President Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cost-sharing arrangements would be comprised of a combination of the capital dollars that we currently have tabled, as well as our base O and M dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MS. GREEN: I am trying to understand that. Will there actually be new money for housing in this bilateral agreement? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member alluded to earlier about this bilateral agreement, I am anxious myself. We are just working out the details, and I can confirm with the Member that there will be new dollars with the signing of that bilateral agreement. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could we have an estimate of when that agreement is expected to be made public? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can confirm that our staff is going to be meeting with the federal government via teleconference on Monday to discuss further details and hoping that, in the next couple of weeks, we will have something signed and can officially announce and then start working with our partners to get those dollars spent. Thank you.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. On page 68, it says, "Materials and labour, two units, MH, Hay River." Is

the MH "market housing"? I see people nodding their heads, so I will take that as a yes.

There doesn't seem to be any public housing in this budget for Hay River. In Hay River, we recently lost 26 family homes. I believe they were three bedrooms each. I think the rationale was that they were replaced by seniors' units, a seniors' complex. There is a bit of a shortage of family housing. I think the last time I saw the waitlist for across the territory, Hay River had a higher portion of families in need of housing, and sorry, this is sort of a long-winded way of getting to a complex situation here.

We have the Hay River High Rise in Hay River, and last time I checked there, I think there were 24 or 25 units rented out to people on income assistance. There has been talk for years about whether that building is going to last. I mean, the fire marshal has had concerns. You can literally see pieces falling off the building. It is concrete, so when the stucco falls off, that doesn't necessarily mean it is falling apart, but it is indicative of poor maintenance. For years, it seems like we are on the edge of, perhaps, everyone having to move out of that building.

There is not enough housing for the families that need it right now in Hay River, and potentially, we have another 10, 20, 30 families that could need it if this building shuts down, and we don't have the market rental units to absorb all of those people.

How is the Housing Minister working with income assistance to address this issue, if they even recognize it as an issue? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Member's concerns. As I mentioned, when we do put the capital planning forward, there are a few factors that we do take into consideration right across the Northwest Territories, as I mentioned them earlier at the start of questioning. Looking forward to Hay River, there could be potential partnerships through the Co-Investment Fund, which I have discussed and the Member has asked me questions in the House about, and working with industry to address those concerns. I do appreciate the Member's concerns around the municipality of Hay River. Thank you.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. We could be facing a situation where, I mean, the housing wait list could double with all the people who could be evicted from the high-rise. I am not saying this is going to happen. Every time I inquire about it, people say, "Well, we are paying attention.

We are coordinating with the fire marshal," all this kind of stuff. There is always that lingering thought.

Like I said, there isn't the market housing in Hay River to absorb all these people. Because of Hay River's location, you know, even though we are just north of Alberta, it is seen as remote. Not the same rules apply to it when developers want to borrow money to start developing. There are different rules. It can be difficult. It is not like building in high levels. It is not even like building in Yellowknife. It is a little more difficult to get funding.

Has the department been in contact with any private developers who are looking to develop property in Hay River and seeing if they can do anything, whether through the Co-Investment Fund or anything like that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly, we know there is a huge demand for land in Hay River. We have been working closely with the municipal government. They expressed their desire to expand and create some new lots because land will be an issue. If the people have to vacate the high-rise, we will have to need land to build new units.

As working with private developers, we are aware of a private developer in Hay River who has been working closely with CMHC to do a development in Hay River. I think it is about 30 units. That is very encouraging to see the private sector stepping in to help out. We hope to see more of that with the Co-Investment Fund. The rules have changed or will change once we get this new fund in place in dealing with the private sector on housing investments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you. That is good hear for the reasons I had mentioned earlier. Will the Minister please make that information available to the Members once that new money is available so I can bring it to people who have expressed an interest in developing some property in Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I will commit to that. In fact, we will probably be making an announcement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am the Sasquatch, and I know where the Minister can find \$8 million for public housing retrofits. All he has to do is work with his colleague, the Minister of Infrastructure, and get that missing \$8 million in the Low Carbon Economy Fund. The allocation for the NWT was \$32 million. The agreement that has been signed so far is only \$24 million. Four million of that is for public housing retrofits. Nunavut got \$12 million for public housing retrofits. Can the Minister work with his colleague, the Minister of Infrastructure, access that extra \$8 million that is missing from the Low Carbon Economy Fund, and put it into public housing retrofits? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Member's comments. Obviously, we will work with all of our departments. When the funding was allocated, we got our share of the LCEF funding. We will always push to try to get more money. I think this announcement that we are going to hopefully be saying soon will help alleviate a lot of the infrastructure needs that we see in our communities. Looking forward to making that announcement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I hear the Minister. I don't think housing got a fair shake in terms of the money that is flowing to the NWT through the Low Carbon Economy Fund. I think the federal government would be very receptive to increasing the amount that would go for public housing. I am going to leave that to the Minister to sort out. My point here is: we just have to be able to make sure that public housing becomes more of a priority for our Cabinet in the decisions that are made around what gets submitted to federal infrastructure pots like the Low Carbon Economy Fund. I know I bothered this Minister about this issue. I have bothered the previous Minister about this issue. I have raised it in the House in this sitting. Housing is just not a high enough priority for our Cabinet when it comes to federal infrastructure dollars.

Anyways, as I understand this bilateral that is being negotiated as part of the National Housing Strategy, the Minister seems to indicate that this is close. I know these details are not public, but we are supposed to be functioning in some kind of a consensus government system. Can the Minister commit to share what he can at this point about what is being negotiated or what is on the table, what has already been agreed to with that bilateral with the appropriate standing committee before the

agreement is actually signed, understanding that this is a consensus government system and that the information might have to be provided on a confidential basis? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First off, I just want to let the Member know that, when we speak with our federal counterparts, we continue to put the pressure and let them know our challenges here up in the North. We have actually invited the Minister to come up North and see the challenges of building housing units or any other type of infrastructure. It has been a consistent message to get more funds flowing to the Northwest Territories.

In the bilaterals, we are looking at modernizing and making our units more energy efficient. That will lower the costs on our stock. In terms of providing the details, I would have to take that back to my Cabinet colleagues. However, the Member does know that when we did go through our business plans review, that we did commit that once the bilaterals are signed and finalized, that I would be more than willing to come and present to committee on the details of that agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am just trying to figure out how much further I can go with this. Look, roads and highways are the priority for this Cabinet. The Minister of Infrastructure, when he appeared before senate committee on the same day that Nunavut announced that they were going to get \$12 million for public housing retrofits under the Low Carbon Economy Fund, our Minister of Infrastructure appeared before us, the senate committee. All he talked about was the big toys for big boys: Taltson, Mackenzie Valley Highway, Slave Geological Province Road, Tlicho All Season Road. Housing was not even mentioned in his speech to those people, not even mentioned in terms of infrastructure needs for the Northwest Territories.

That is the kind of emphasis that is wrong, in my opinion. It is not what our residents need. I want you to work and I know you are going to work hard on this, Minister, but that is not the message that is getting out there. That is not the message that is being delivered in Ottawa. It needs to change. Thanks. That is all I have, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you for that comment, Mr. O'Reilly. No one further on the list. I will call this activity. NWT Housing

Corporation, finance and infrastructure services, \$18,276,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please return to page 66. I will call the departmental total. NWT Housing Corporation, total capital estimates, \$18,276,000. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and to your witnesses. Sergeant at arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the chair rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. There's a motion to report progress. The motion is in order. To the motion. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? Always those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

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

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 215-18(3), Capital Estimates, 2019-2020, and would like to report progress, and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Minister for Nahendeh. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Monday, October 29, 2018, 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 the Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 29, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
 - Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act
 - Bill 26, Statistics Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act
 - Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process

- Minister's Statement 103-18(3), Marine Transportation Services

- Tabled Document 215-18(3), Capital Estimates, 2019-2020

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stand adjourned until Monday, October 29, 2018, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

