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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, February 20, 2019****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. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The Honourable Premier.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 145-18(3):
SELF-GOVERNMENT
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE FOR THE SAHTU
DENE AND METIS OF NORMAN WELLS

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2019, I had the honour of signing the self-government agreement-in-principle for the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells, alongside our negotiating partners, the Government of Canada and the Norman Wells Land Corporation.

Reaching this Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle represents a significant step in the journey toward fulfilling the obligation to negotiate self-government in the 1993 Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. More importantly, this agreement-in-principle represents a key milestone in the journey towards self-government and self-determination for the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells.

Mr. Speaker, the work of negotiating and concluding land, resources, and self-government agreements can be challenging, but it is essential if we are to build the Northwest Territories and Canada that we all want to be a part of. A territory and a country where our long history of working and living together is protected, and where the rights of Indigenous peoples are protected for future generations.

While there are similarities between self-government agreements in the Northwest Territories, there are also many unique aspects that take into account the different needs and self-government priorities of the communities. Simply stated, a "one size fits all" approach does not work here in the Northwest Territories.

The agreement-in-principle for the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells is a good example of our commitment to negotiating self-government agreements that reflect the unique realities of each community. The agreement-in-principle considers how to implement the inherent right for the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells in a community where they comprise a smaller proportion of the overall population. This agreement-in-principle is flexible and forward-looking, in that it allows for changes in the governance model, as the population demographics change in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that in the Northwest Territories, we have a shared history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people living, working, and governing together. This is reflected in the fabric of our communities, in the languages we speak, and in the cultural and business decisions we make.

This milestone achievement is something that should be celebrated by all Northerners, not just residents of Norman Wells and the Sahtu region. That is because we know and believe that completed agreements are the basis for realizing our true social and economic potential by clarifying and providing certainty with respect to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

With one milestone reached, the parties are already looking ahead and have commenced negotiations on a final self-government agreement for the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells. Completing these negotiations continues to be one of the most powerful and meaningful ways that we can demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation and to empowering our people to be self-sufficient and self-determining.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the hard work by the negotiating teams who have helped get us to this important moment in history. Congratulations to all of the parties on this momentous achievement, and most importantly, congratulations to the Sahtu and Dene and Metis of Norman Wells. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 146-18(3):
CANNABIS CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY
GOVERNMENTS

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from January 16 to 17, 2019, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs brought community government leaders together to discuss cannabis. This was our first opportunity for such a gathering since cannabis became legal in Canada on October 17, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, the legalization of cannabis presents challenges for northern society. The purpose of this conference was to look for local solutions for community governments as they deal with this new reality. Our focus was presenting as much information as possible for local leaders with the right experts available to answer as many questions as possible.

The first part of the conference addressed the legislative framework for the management of legal cannabis. I wish to express my thanks to the following departments or agencies who made their officials available: the Department of Finance, who presented on their legislation and the new retail process; the Department of Health and Social Services, who presented on cannabis smoking control and health promotion efforts; the Department of Infrastructure and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who presented on changes to the Motor Vehicles Act and associated efforts to manage impaired driving; the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and the law firm of McLennan Ross, who led an excellent session on labour relations and human resources; and the Municipal and Community Affairs' staff, who presented on community-based planning, zoning, and bylaw-making authority.

The conference included a keynote speaker from Manitoba who brought a national perspective, as well as a speaker from Colorado with an international view. In addition to the presentations, our conference organizers also provided a wide range of resources for delegates to take away and continue their learning.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there are lessons we can take away from this conference. First, despite the state of Colorado legalizing cannabis many years ago, they are still dealing with the effects of this change today, and there will be more for us to learn going forward. Second, we know that, despite providing considerable information and resources to community leaders, there is a thirst for even more information and a need to continue this discussion locally in our communities. Finally, we heard from communities that, while cannabis is now legal, there are still many impacts of drugs and alcohol that are having a continued effect on our

communities and our residents, especially our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that our government is continuing an aggressive public awareness campaign in the coming year. I especially commend the efforts of the Department of Health and Social Services, with community-based workshops, as well as social marketing efforts using cutting-edge techniques, such as augmented reality. All of this is aimed at supporting our youth as they deal with this change, and I am grateful for these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I believe community leaders were pleased with the information that they received. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will assist communities on issues related to community planning and local controls and from a human resources perspective as they establish proper policies for their workplaces. We have only had legal cannabis for a little over five months. We cannot expect to have all the answers today, but Municipal and Community Affairs will continue to support our communities and our residents as we all adapt to the reality of legal cannabis in the coming months and years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 147-18(3):
BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU NUMBERS

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know you and all the other Members here understand the importance of barren-ground caribou to our communities. Caribou are central to the way of life in the North and have sustained people here for many generations. This is why, together, this Legislative Assembly made a mandate commitment to improve food security in the Northwest Territories through the effective co-management of wildlife, including caribou.

Part of achieving this commitment requires recognizing that caribou are a shared resource and we need to work with our co-management partners, including the federal government, Indigenous governments, regulatory boards, industry, and other stakeholders to make shared decisions.

Mr. Speaker, last year the Government of the Northwest Territories carried out population surveys on five of our territory's barren-ground caribou herds: the Cape Bathurst, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East, and the Bathurst caribou. The results of those surveys were not favourable, and in November I shared the details of those results with Members and the public.

What we learned was that, while populations of the three northern herds have stayed relatively stable, unfortunately, the Bluenose-East and Bathurst caribou herds continue to experience significant declines.

These results were alarming in that both of these populations have been reduced by half or more over the last three years, despite extensive co-management actions between the GNWT and Indigenous governments and renewable resources boards to support Barren Ground conservation and promote herd recovery.

Mr. Speaker, we know that these results were concerning to the public, and the GNWT shares this concern. We know that our communities are struggling without caribou and that many families have already sacrificed a lot to help the herds recover. As you know, there has been no harvest of Bathurst caribou since 2015, and harvest of the Bluenose-East herd has been significantly reduced. However, the caribou continue to need our help.

In the months since I shared these results with our co-management partners and the public, I have been meeting with Indigenous leaders and affected communities to talk about the low caribou numbers and hear their ideas for how we can work together to take care of the herds.

I want to particularly thank the Tlicho leadership, who have emphasized the importance of strong collaboration with the GNWT to address this urgent situation. Our two governments have been working very closely together over the past few months to consider what we can do to help support the caribou.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of ENR and myself are committed to meeting with as many of our co-management partners and Indigenous governments as we can to discuss this issue. At the end of January, I travelled with Tlicho leadership to Whati, Wekweeti, Gameti, and Behchoko. I also met with the chiefs of the Yellowknives Dene, and my officials met with First Nations and Metis leadership in Fort Smith. Earlier this month, ENR also held meetings with Lutsel K'e First Nation and the North Slave Metis Alliance on February 18, 2019.

One of the suggestions that we continue to hear at these meetings is that more needs to be done to deal with predators, namely wolves, and I agree. That is why the GNWT has increased the incentives that we offer to wolf harvesters in the North Slave region, specifically on the wintering grounds of the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou. The enhanced incentive program is meant to encourage harvesters to take more wolves on the ranges of the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou. At the same time, we are also looking at what more we

can do together with the Tlicho Government to reduce the impacts of predators on caribou populations.

Predators are only part of the picture, Mr. Speaker. For the last few months, the GNWT has been working closely with the Tlicho Government to draft two joint management proposals: one for the Bathurst caribou herd and one for the Bluenose-East.

These proposals lay out the actions that our two governments are proposing to take to help the herds recover, including harvest management, habitat protection, and increased research and monitoring. The proposals also reflect the recommendations in the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan. This plan is in the final stages of approval and will ensure that we are managing activities on the land in a way that supports the recovery of our caribou herds.

Both proposals are now with the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board for review.

Mr. Speaker, in the Sahtu, the GNWT continues to support a community-based approach to conservation planning for the Bluenose-East caribou herd, centred around Deline's caribou conservation plan. This is a plan that has been endorsed by both the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and the GNWT.

This is the process outlined in our established co-management system, and we have complete confidence in both boards to make smart, effective decisions in the best interest of caribou and the people of the Northwest Territories.

I have also been speaking with my colleague in Nunavut, as the calving grounds and important post-calving areas for both the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou are in Nunavut. I am making arrangements to meet with Premier Joe Savikataaq this spring, who is also the Minister of Environment. My hope is for us to sit down with Indigenous leaders from both sides of the border to talk about what steps we can take to help our shared caribou herds.

Mr. Speaker, I know this is a passionate issue for many. We need to avoid the temptation to point fingers and, instead, focus on working together to make decisions that support the caribou.

We know from both science and traditional knowledge that caribou populations have undergone sharp declines and rapid increases in the past. We all have a role to play during this current low, and the GNWT will continue to work with all of our co-management partners, through established wildlife co-management processes, to help ensure that caribou can continue to sustain

present and future generations of Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEHCHO DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL FUNDING

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the divisional education board office has two fewer staff supporting the schools than in the Sahtu. In the Deh Cho proper, eight communities, we have two support staff for nine schools, whereas the Sahtu has four support staff for five schools. It is my understanding that the Sahtu board has two IT support staff, while the Deh Cho has one. This doesn't seem right. We need to address this, or we are going to see more vulnerable children in ongoing decline in the EDI and MDI results for the Deh Cho. It is my position that the base funding based on the number of students doesn't work.

I would like to suggest a new base formula that guarantees a minimum staffing regardless of the number of students. This would be based on the understanding that it does not matter how many students you have in the school; you need a part-time custodian, principal, secretary, program support teacher, and teachers. There are districts in BC that use this approach, with better results for the students. For example, a principal has reports to write for the central office and for ECE, no matter how many students are in the school, but we have some administrators who teach all days. They have no time for administration. Once this basic funding is in place, other formulas should kick in based on the number of students, with the understanding that you will need two teachers, no matter what.

I recommend to the staff of the department that we see additional funding for the Deh Cho divisional education council in the following areas:

- A language support person to help with translation; as well, this position will help promote the revitalization of Indigenous language in the region;
- An intern program support teacher, whose focus would be to step in where school has a vacancy or where there is an illness;
- A position focused entirely on curriculum support; she or he would ensure that the students are not falling behind and would build an education program; and

- A curriculum support advisor; this person would carry the profile of literacy, numeracy, and writing, ensuring that the students get the support that they need.

I will have questions for the Minister of ECE later today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DIVISIONAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES FUNDING FORMULA

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the framework used by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to fund schools is not working in the Deh Cho, and it is not working in Hay River. We are lucky that, over the years, the schools in Hay River have had many skilled and dedicated principals, teachers, and support staff and have been governed by equally dedicated education authority members. It is because of all of them that Hay River has had better educational outcomes than most places in the territory.

However, Mr. Speaker, this success has come despite ECE's funding framework, which has proven itself too rigid and not responsive to our communities' changing demographics. Every year, we see cuts to funding that are out of line with the actual needs of schools and students.

As I have said, we have been fortunate that our education authorities have members who are very engaged and who are willing to put in the time and effort to make the tough decisions about how to allocate the ever-dwindling funds. We are also lucky enough to have principals who have the ability to stretch those funds further than we should reasonably expect them to.

However, Mr. Speaker, neither the education authorities nor the principals can multiply bread and fish, and so, eventually, even their skill and dedication will not be enough to stave off the damage from never-ending budget cuts. A system can only bend so far before it breaks, and we are already starting to see stress fractures.

Schools are increasingly having difficulty affording enough staff to provide the level of education that our students deserve and are having to make cuts in areas that they know will directly affect educational outcomes. They have no choice, though, Mr. Speaker. If you don't have the money, you don't have the money.

What worries me is that, at some point, the people who have been holding everything together are

going to get fed up and move on, and the students will suffer. I have raised these concerns with the department before, and they have been raised by those within the system for years. However, nothing ever seems to change.

I have never really heard any complaints about the funding formula coming from Yellowknife, with the exception of junior kindergarten debates, and the capital seems to have excellent educational outcomes. If there is resistance to changing the formula because it works well for Yellowknife, then keep it the same for Yellowknife, but change it for the regional centres so that our youth are also provided with the best possible opportunities to achieve success.

Mr. Speaker, it's time that the department responds to these growing concerns and develops a funding formula that works for all schools. I'll have questions for the Minister of Education at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT SECURITY LINE WAIT TIMES

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been two and a half years since the implementation of the new Airport Improvement Tax. MLAs were told that tax revenues would be used for capital improvements that would improve the customer experience. Now, during peak tourism season, is a good time to take a close look at the results.

In March of 2017, the Minister said that the new fee would support improvements at the airport to help "create benefits for all travellers." Specifically the Minister claimed that, again, "Improved security services and expanded holding areas that reduce congestion, along with improved amenities, will improve traveller experience and comfort."

Now, after millions of dollars collected in user fees and hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on renovations to the security screening area, the key complaint of constituents is that security line wait times are unreasonably long. Why? Because there is still only one security line at the airport.

Mr. Speaker, one of the objectives of those renovations was to increase security screening throughput, but clearly it doesn't seem like things have improved at all. In fact, some people believe the situation is much worse.

So what went wrong? Where is the new CATSA Plus screening equipment that was supposed to be

included in the renovations? Airport management, during a presentation at City Hall, told council that CATSA Plus would increase throughput by up to 60 percent. This system looks nothing like CATSA Plus systems in other airports.

Does the YZF management even track security line wait times? How do they expect to be able to manage the problem if they aren't measuring it?

Mr. Speaker, stories of missed boardings, and even entire missed trips, have now become legendary on social media. When the process is so inept that people are missing flights or flights are being delayed, that's not an acceptable practice.

Mr. Speaker, when the Minister created the revolving fund and introduced the new tax, he chose not to go the full distance and establish an airport authority, which, as we've seen elsewhere, would have introduced a very business-like approach to managing the airport. Instead, he opted to maintain government control of the airport, but has it worked? An airport authority surely would have done something about an obvious problem like security wait times by now.

I will have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WAIT TIMES

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring further attention to an issue which affects Northerners of all ages and walks of life, directly or indirectly, our mental healthcare system.

I want to take a moment first to thank all in our communities in the public and private healthcare facilities, the nurses, doctors, therapists, community leaders, specialists, and elders who work tirelessly for the betterment and health of all Northerners. We all owe you a great debt of gratitude. My thoughts today are being made in the hope we can improve the existing programs and the concerns that have been shared with me by Northerners about access to these crucial services.

Depression, anxiety, PTSD, seasonal mood disorder, bipolar disorder, suicide, survivors of abuse, the list goes on. The people who live daily with these and many other afflictions are too often hiding in plain sight. They may have the biggest smiles and brightest of personalities, and yet, just below the surface, they may be facing thoughts, feelings, and emotions which are not in line with the outward image they portray.

When Northerners decide they need help, they can call the NWT Helpline, which is a good first point of access, but members of the public have brought it to my attention that, under the current process, wait times are more commonly six to 12 weeks, or even months, a far cry from the two to three weeks as stated by the Minister. In Hay River, I am told, it can take eight months of waiting just to get an appointment to see a counsellor. For those without health insurance benefits or those who cannot afford to wait due to a mental health crisis, there is even less support, and paying out of pocket just isn't an affordable solution to those who need help the most.

Now, let me be clear. I'm not talking about a two-tiered system. We are talking about those who fall through the cracks, those who need help now, and those who, if they wait for the prescribed length of time, risk falling back into addiction, self-harm, or worse.

There is clearly a disconnect between what we are being told in this House and what the public is telling us at their doorstep. These wait times can have far-reaching consequences. We know that, when people reach out for help, being told to wait for months on end is just not an option. They are at high risk and are in need of compassion and a helping hand at that exact moment. We need a system of mental healthcare that makes best use of our resources and gets Northerners the help they need, as soon as they need it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to bring up the quality of healthcare we have in the NWT. My riding of the Mackenzie Delta has a high number of complaints regarding treatment received at the local health centres, and also in Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents who call me say they go the health centre because they are sick, they are in pain, they need medical attention, and in most cases, they are given Tylenol or other equal antibiotics for pain and sent home. Many of my constituents are continuing to have medical issues, and these medical issues can and will get more serious if not treated. I'm sure all our small communities can relate to this concern.

Mr. Speaker, before our people suffer more than they already have, let's get answers to why many of our constituents are not being referred to doctors or hospitals for further examination.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are demanding a better quality of healthcare. I'll have questions later today, thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MACTUNG PROPERTY SALE

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Our mining Minister recently announced that the Mactung property in the Mackenzie Mountains is finally up for sale.

Just how did we get here? North American Tungsten, the owner and operator of the former Cantung Mine, went into creditor protection on June 9, 2015. Somehow the federal government let that company put up the Mactung property as part of its financial security for its water license. When our government inherited management of the Cantung site under devolution, nothing was done to change that arrangement, even though the GNWT had total discretion over the form of the security that was filed. So much for polluter pays, and the devolution promise of responsible resource development.

As part of the creditor protection proceeding, Cabinet ended up purchasing Mactung for \$2.5 million with a special warrant that bypassed the Legislative Assembly. That way, it could hand Cantung back to the federal government for remediation. When we acquired the Mactung property, a lot of junk and hazardous materials had been left behind at the site, even though I had been told that there was nothing there. A non-compliance letter was written by the Yukon government to GNWT about Mactung on February 4, 2016. I kept pressing Ministers to have an assessment done of the site. That was done, but the report has not been publicly released. The GNWT issued a contract for \$87,000 to do a partial cleanup of the site in the summer of 2018.

Two reports of field observations and geology of the Mactung deposit and surrounding area were prepared at taxpayers' expense and released in January 2018. The Minister promised to share the marketing plan with the standing committee for Mactung, but that hasn't happened. On December 20, 2018, a Vancouver consultant submitted an application for a Class 4 Quartz Mining Land Use Approval to the Yukon government for 10 years of exploration at Mactung, "as part of a means of increasing the appeal on the Mactung property to prospective buyers."

Lots of questions, and not a lot of clear communications. I'm sure the Minister is looking forward to my questions later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
2019 YOUTH TRADITIONAL GAMES AND INUIT
GAMES

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 2019 Traditional Games Championship. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Government of the Northwest Territories offers many diverse programs and services. Together, the departments, boards, and agencies take care of our infrastructure, deliver healthcare, maintain public housing, power our homes, and much more.

These are big, important things, but the GNWT also helps Northerners take care of the little things, and sometimes even these little things are valuable. I want to talk about one today.

This past weekend, the 2019 Traditional Game Championship, sponsored and led by the staff of the Aboriginal Sports Circle, was held here in Yellowknife.

Students from 22 schools, including Chief T'Selehye School in Fort Good Hope, the Colville Lake School, the Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells, and the Ehtseo Ayha School in Deline, gathered to compete in traditional Dene and Inuit games. I am glad these young people can gather to celebrate their culture together like this. This is great to see and witness.

Mr. Speaker, being on the Standing Committee on Government Operations, the GNWT supports for games like these are very important to me and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see this continued support for games and for our non-government organizations or NGOs like the Aboriginal Sports Circle for continued success. Later, I will have questions for the appropriate Minister. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HOUSING BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH
CANADA

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, housing is an important issue in Yellowknife Centre, where so many of my constituents are renters. Affordability remains a major issue, with one in seven households overspending on rent in the marketplace. Availability is also a significant problem for people who need rent geared to income. There are long waiting lists at the Yellowknife Housing Authority, Northern United

Place, and Avens Court. With these facts in mind, I attended the announcement of the new federal-territorial housing agreement in November with great anticipation.

The agreement is worth \$140 million over 10 years, with money beginning to flow in April. The agreement addresses the three elements of housing need: affordability, adequacy, and suitability. It identifies priority groups for social housing, including seniors, women and children fleeing violence, veterans, refugees, visible minorities, people suffering from mental illness, and those who are homeless.

Mr. Speaker, the new agreement aims to increase the number of rent-assisted units by 15 percent beginning in 2020-2021, and it aims to repair 20 percent of existing public housing units. This is good news, but, again, I am disappointed there are no targets for new Housing Corporation construction, even though the strategy is supposed to expand housing stock.

At a briefing to the Standing Committee on Social Development, the president of the NWT Housing Corporation confirmed that the corporation's rental inventory will stay at 2,400 units. However, there is \$60 million available through a co-investment fund, for non-profits and others to build affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, Regular MLAs are keenly interested in reducing housing need across the NWT. We passed a motion in 2016 that called on government to reduce core housing need by 2 percent a year for four years so that the NWT met the national average by the end of our term. We will know later this year what progress government has made. The NWT Bureau of Statistics is conducting its every-five-year NWT Community Survey this winter. It will give us a snapshot of where we stand. In the meantime, the detail about how the money from the federal-territorial agreement is going to be spent will be worked out in a three-year action plan to be completed next month. This action plan represents a key milestone in meeting the needs of Northerners for more and better housing. I will have questions for the NWT Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mahsi

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION
AWARDED ARCTIC INSPIRATION PRIZE

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, through its Community Economic Development

Organization, has been awarded a \$500,000 prize by the Arctic Inspiration Prize Charitable Trust.

Mr. Speaker, the project is a joint venture between the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council and fully supported by the Aurora Research Institute. Mr. Speaker, the concept is to develop an innovative process to support Northern Indigenous artists and crafters in the Western Arctic. The team will engage with artisans in each community and create an association of Indigenous artists and crafters across the region to work at developing sustainable business ventures; improving their art skills; ensuring authentic, high-quality products; and building confidence as sustainable business owners.

Mr. Speaker, the project will commence immediately and provide the business supports required to:

1. establish a sustainable association of working artists and crafters who will support each other and the arts/crafts sector by building a critical mass in each community;
2. remove barriers to venture creation by hiring two business managers for the association to manage the books, provide business services and counselling, promote the artists, create an online presence for sales, and develop markets.

Mr. Speaker, the project will also address long-standing challenges traditionally faced by Northern Indigenous artists, including but not limited to:

- encouraging meaningful investment in artists/crafters;
- addressing policies that hinder venture creation, tweaking them to be more encouraging and supportive;
- building and maintaining the reputation for high-quality, authentic Northern Indigenous art; and
- developing young artists to ensure that the continuity of traditional knowledge in the art and culture.

Mr. Speaker, the project team is a strong and collaborative partnership between the IRC, the GTC, and ARI that have the skills, expertise, resource, and passion required to move it from concept to successful completion and to inspire local artists, crafters, and the community members to embrace the vision and make the project their own. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate "Traditional techniques tweaked to inspire and galvanize Indigenous Northern artists" on their win

at the Arctic Inspiration Prize 2019. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGY FOR MADELINE MARLOWE

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, [English translation not provided]. I rise today to speak about the passing of an elder, Madeline Marlowe, of Lutselk'e. Madeline was born on May 5, 1932. She was born and raised in Lutselk'e and lived to be 86 years old, until she passed away on August 10, 2018. Madeline was a well-respected elder, and she was a valuable knowledge-holder who will be missed by many.

Mr. Speaker, Madeline is survived by seven children, Frank, Angelina (Angie), Fred, Catherine, James, Richard, plus 17 grandchildren, and countless other great-grandchildren, nephews, and nieces. Madeline is pre-deceased by her husband, Johnny Marlowe, and her three sons, Noel, Troy, and George Marlowe, and her granddaughter, Vanessa Marlowe.

Mr. Speaker, among many stories of Madeline's life, there are three in particular that I would like to share today. Firstly, in 2015, Madeline was among a group of 25 who received the Premier's Award for Collaboration with respect to their work with Lutselk'e Dictionary Project.

Another notable fact is that Madeline has a granddaughter, Tishna Marlowe, who is a fashion designer and accredits Madeline tremendously for her beading and sewing prowess. According to Tishna, she could not have achieved the success she's earned if it wasn't for Madeline's influence.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, I also want to acknowledge the fact that Madeline Marlowe is the mother to my Lutselk'e constituency assistant, James Marlowe. James has been a valuable and loyal member of my staff for many years. So to James, your family, I extend my condolences for your loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences to the family and to the community, as well. Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Kam Lake.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a page, Ashley Sisson-Carlson from Kam Lake, and all the pages who have been helping us for our sitting.

Thank you very much for the work that you do. Thank you.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognize my son, CJ, and he is here with his friend Sarah, who is a dedicated Air Canada stewardess who helps move tourists all around the world. That benefits the residents of the Northwest Territories, as well. Welcome to the House. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start with recognizing, again, my nephew Jeremy Beauchamp. It looks like he might be trying to take my seat here in the House. I am glad to have him. Then Suzie Napayok is the translator in Inuktitut. She lives in my constituency, so I am glad to see her. She is also is a great writer of books, with traditional knowledge from her culture, so a great asset to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery, thanks for being here with us. It is always great to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Item 6, acknowledgments. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 573-18(3): EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY FUNDING FORMULA

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, in my Member's statement, I talked about the funding for the Divisional Education Authority for Deh Cho, which has eight communities. My first question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is: can the Minister please provide information on how the school funding framework works? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How does the funding formula work right now? Right now, we provide money for schools to be able to provide services for JK to grade 12. It does have a funding formula that we feel is equitable, but it does also permit flexibility for the local decision-making that needs to be done by authorities.

Some of that is able to be flexible, such as our territorial school of monies. We also provide administration monies, but some of it is actually being changed, that it needs to be spent for things such as inclusive schooling and the Aboriginal languages. Those have to be spent on those areas specifically, but we try to be as flexible as possible.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I talk about the disparity between different regions here. I talk about the Sahtu has five communities or four communities. Is it four? Five, five communities, sorry, and four staff. In my riding, we have eight communities, including the Deh Cho riding, and we only have two staff. Can the Minister explain: if all education bodies have provided funding on an equitable basis, why are there different staffing levels at different divisional education and culture?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Like I stated earlier, the funding formula is based so that it is equitable. There is money for administration et cetera, but there is money that is provided for the number of children in the schools. However, they are allowed to use that with some flexibility, and, therefore, some schools do decide to hire additional teachers; other schools decide to use it for other areas. There are also other monies besides, that come from the GNWT. A lot of the schools in the territory have access to our Canada's Jordan's Principle, which is providing additional monies for them. We need to get more schools to work with this, to work on this area. When we allow flexibility and when they can apply for outside sources of funding, that allows them the discretion to be able to hire additional teachers or not.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, when I talk about differences in funding formula and that, we are seeing a decline in our student population in the riding here. We lost 60 students this next coming year, so we are seeing a huge cut-back on positions and that. Can the Minister please provide what process is used to change the school funding framework?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The funding formula is reviewed on a regular basis. We try to work with our school authorities, school bodies, to make sure that it meets their needs, as well. In saying that, though, some things are addressed as the needs come up. For example, just after I assumed this position as Education, Culture and Employment Minister, when it was brought to my attention by the MLA from Nahendeh, who stated that we only had one teacher in small schools, that was an area of concern for me, and so I moved on that quite quickly to actually make sure that we have a minimum of two teachers in every single school in the Northwest Territories, so it is reviewed regularly.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for her answers to this point here. I guess my concern, though, is, when we talk about our divisional boards, when we only have two staff, we are going to burn those people out. They are going to be working really hard, and, you know, when you've got eight schools, it is very difficult for two people. They always going to be on the road, so it is a concern. When we don't even have the proper IT staff, you know, that is a concern.

Will the Minister make a commitment to do a cross-jurisdictional review of the funding formula?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: It is a concern where we don't have enough teachers in schools. That is why, like I said earlier, I insisted that there be two teachers in every school. Some of our small schools, like the one I met with today, actually only have five students in it and now has two teachers in it, so we have to also be careful that we don't overload it so that we have more teachers than actual students at a time.

In saying that, though, we do need to review the funding formula. When I was in the constituency tour for Nahendeh, it was brought to my attention that other jurisdictions actually don't do the funding based on the same way that we do within the Northwest Territories. That was really interesting to learn, and so it taught me that this isn't a Canada-wide funding formula and that we need to review it. I have committed to the MLA, and I will continue to do that, is that we are looking at a cross-jurisdictional review within the next year, to see what other provinces and territories are doing and to make sure we are as fair as possible to our students in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 574-18(3):

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WAIT TIMES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, constituents and other members of the public have brought to me their concerns around wait times of six to 12 weeks to access mental health services, far greater than the government's own estimate of two to three weeks. Can the Minister of Health and Social Services respond to these concerns today with an updated and current estimate of the approximate wait times to access mental health care services in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, two things: number one, for issues that are critical or urgent, there really are no wait times. We triage these individuals right away, and, if the triage identifies it as being an urgent or a critical issue, they will see somebody right away.

However, the Member is correct. There are wait times for non-urgent counselling services here in the Northwest Territories, and some of them are quite long. Yellowknife, for adults, it is up to three months; for children, two months. In Behchoko, it is anywhere from four to five weeks' wait time for non-urgent counselling services. In Hay River, it is actually the worst in the territories, at about 35 weeks. I know the Member has raised a number of questions on that, and we are trying to find some solutions there. In Fort Smith, it is one to two weeks. In the smaller communities, we tend not to have the same kind of wait lists, typically. There are times when we may have vacancy or someone goes on holiday, that there might be a short-term wait list, but typically not in the smaller communities, but I do hear the Member.

MR. TESTART: You know, a non-urgent issue can become an urgent if it is not addressed. Waiting eight months, I think it is a pretty significant wait time for people who are looking for that kind of care. The Minister mentioned urgent or critical cases. Can he share the policy that governs a critical or urgent case?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I believe I heard the Member correctly when he indicated eight-month wait times. If the Member is aware of somebody who is waiting eight months, we are trying to constantly improve, and I would strongly encourage the Member to seek consent from that individual so that they can approach us so we could find out what is going on in that particular file because, on average, three months in Yellowknife is what we are seeing for non-urgent issues.

Mr. Speaker, all community counselling programs with wait times or wait lists have an intervention plan in place to ensure that urgent clients do not slip through the cracks. This recognizes that individuals may change over the time that they are waiting. They may come in, they may not be deemed "urgent," but it may escalate as a result of changing situations. As a result of these plans, triaging of all clients on referral are prioritizing urgent clients. We are offering same-day counselling to individuals who are identified as urgent, and when possible, short-term workshops and other things are done in the community to give our residents options. If an individual is on the wait list, and they are told, "Your appointment is going to

be in six weeks," and there is a change in their situation, they should immediately reach out to the Health and Social Services providers, who can do a new, updated assessment to determine urgency, and if appropriate, they can take advantage of these services.

Once again, if the Member is aware of somebody that is eight months, please reach out to them and encourage them to either talk to quality assurance or get consent from the Member so that we can look into this file and figure out what went wrong.

MR. TESTART: In the event that there is someone who is on the edge and is put on one of those queues, but feels that they need the treatment, and they seek, under their own initiative, to go and obtain treatment, does the government have any policies to assist those people with any financial costs incurred if their case would have fallen under the healthcare and they simply could not wait in the queue any longer?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: All of the programs and services, counselling and treatment services, that we provide are based on a referral. They would need a referral for us to provide them with financial supports and coverage.

Many insurance providers don't need our same-level referral. They can always approach their own insurance provider if they have it, recognizing that not everybody has it, but typically, no, if someone seeks treatment outside of our system, we wouldn't cover their costs.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, the Minister spoke of new on-the-land healing programs that would address some of this backlog by providing more local options. There is around \$5 million from the federal government to support this. This government itself has been budgeting \$1.23 million for several years now.

With the eight contribution agreements that have been signed that the Minister spoke of recently in the House, how many real, actual programs that people can access to get these kind of services and avoid wait lists has this money created? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I know that the Member is aware, but just before I answer the on-the-land question, we are doing a number of things to try and help us control and reduce the wait times. One of the things that we are doing is actually providing child and youth counsellors across the territory, which has opened up a service that really doesn't exist for many of our youth today who are using the system as a whole. We are putting more

positions in, and we are trying to create more resources for people.

Mr. Speaker, we have \$1.23 million. The \$5 million that the Member is referring to, I think, may be referring to the wellness money that flows through the federal government, through us, to the Indigenous governments. They get to choose how to spend those dollars. We don't dictate how they spend those dollars.

We have \$1.23 million available for on-the-land programming. We make \$125,000 available to each of the Indigenous governments. They can ask for more, up to \$30,000, on a case-by-case basis. Right now, we have a number of individual Indigenous governments who are running the programs. I could go through the list, but I think that it might just be easier to provide the Member that information in writing, because it is quite detailed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 575-18(3): EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY FUNDING

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some follow-up questions to my earlier statement about the funding framework used by Education, Culture and Employment to fund the education councils around the region. The MLA for Nahendeh had some questions earlier, and in those answers from the Minister, the Minister noted that the framework is undergoing review right now. There is a cross-jurisdictional scan.

Could the Minister please clarify if this is a full review or if it is just a jurisdictional scan? If it is a review, what is the scope of this review, and how is the department accounting for the uniqueness of the Northwest Territories, in terms of remoteness, in terms of difficulty attracting staff, and factors such as that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. There are several questions in there. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad you noted that, because I was going, "There must be at least ten questions in that one statement." I am going to try to pick one of them out of there, and then he can slam me with the other ones.

The Member had stated that we are currently undergoing this review. That is not correct. We are in the process of just looking at it. I had just returned from the Nahendeh and realized that other jurisdictions have different funding formulas, and

therefore, I have made a commitment that we will begin the work towards looking at how other jurisdictions provide their funding to their school bodies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: That is unfortunate, that they are thinking about beginning the work to look at a possible review. I was hoping that there was a little more going on than this.

Perhaps the Minister can elaborate on how they assessed the quality of the current funding formula. By the department's own admission, just because you are funded to the formula doesn't mean that you are funded adequately. How does the department assess the adequacy of the funding formula?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The last comprehensive review, actually, on the funding formula was done in March 2016, where a number of things were brought up. Like I said, we are constantly reviewing it, so it is something that always is on the template.

Some of the things that we did notice and that were changed from that review, though, were, for example, things like targeted funding, such as inclusive schooling. We had given, in my opinion, too much discretion to the education bodies, and some were using it for teachers; some were using it for all kinds of things, so we tightened up the inclusive schooling funding so that they had to use it for defined purposes. We always say in the House that we don't have enough for inclusive schooling, so we have to make sure that we provide it where it is supposed to go.

Another thing that was brought to our attention was the money for Aboriginal languages, Indigenous languages. That has to go to Indigenous languages, so we tightened that up as well.

A third factor that I found from that review was actually that, a lot of the educational bodies, I hear all the time that there is not enough money, "we need more money, we need more money," but I was shocked when I heard that education bodies had surplus funding, and I'm going, "How do people who need money have surpluses?" We tightened that up as well, Mr. Speaker, and said, "Spend it or lose it."

We gave them a certain amount to be able to keep for surplus, because surplus is good, but the rest of it needs to go back into schooling. If we need more money for students, then we need to use the money that we have on the plate at the moment.

MR. SIMPSON: In my statement, I said that the funding formula is too rigid, and the Minister said, "Well, we looked at the funding formula, and we made it more rigid. Those are the kinds of changes

that we are making." Then she talked about the surplus. She said the schools have too much surplus. The schools have too much surplus, in her opinion, because the funding formula doesn't work, and so they need this money to accommodate things that aren't accommodated in the funding formula. I think that there is a complete disconnect between the department and what is happening on the ground, the actual needs of the schools.

The Minister talked about some of the detrimental changes that have been made that came out of the last review. Are they looking at making any changes today or currently?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: It is kind of a sin to hear that schools feel threatened and that they feel that they have got to hold onto their money and have a surplus to meet their needs. My background was in the NGO world, and surpluses were a luxury that we never actually got to use. If we had seen it, we spent it as soon as we got it. I really want education bodies to know to use their money. We are not going to dry up; we are still going to provide funding.

Some of the work that is going on right now is I meet with the education bodies a couple of times a year. When I have gone to those meetings, they have all been very politically correct, and sometimes, for me, politically correct doesn't always mean that it is the right thing to do. I put it on the table and said, in the next meeting that we have with the education bodies, I want to talk about inclusive schooling. I want to hear from them firsthand what the strengths and what the issues are, and so then we can actually determine how we use that money better.

It is one thing to hear it in the House, but if the education bodies don't bring those needs to my attention, then it doesn't say it is an issue. I need to hear from those designated authorities that tell me, "These are our concerns and what we would like to see as solutions." That is one change I am making is to try to open up the communications.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That makes two Ministers who say that, if they hear something in the House, it's not a concern. They need to hear it from the people directly. I'm not sure what they think our job is, as elected officials, but to be voices for the people. I have to say I'm glad to hear that the Minister is going to sit down with the authorities and actually listen to them, because my question was going to be: what happens to all those conversations that are had? Because I hear about the conversations from the authorities, and then

they seem to just go into a drawer, the drawer is closed, and they're never seen again.

So what is going to come out of these conversations with the authorities? Can I get something, a deliverable, from the conversations that the Minister is going to have? What is she going to do with that information? I need something concrete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I apologize if I was incorrect, and correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't believe that I had said that MLAs don't speak for the people. They do speak for the people, but I also need to hear directly from the education bodies. They are my partners. I fund them. They are responsible for providing the services to the students. So I need to make sure that that relationship -- the Minister before me worked hard on developing relationships. I need to carry that forward. We need to get it to a place where they actually feel comfortable to come to me as the Minister and say, "We have concerns."

Like I've done with other groups, Mr. Speaker, it's not about just hearing and ignoring. It's about: talk about the issues, talk about solutions, and then find solutions that meet the needs of all of us. That's what I have done all my life in my career as a social worker, and that's what I can commit to continuing to do, is looking for solutions that work for all partners involved, including the children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 576-18(3):
YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT SECURITY
IMPROVEMENTS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today I spoke about the continuing line-ups and long waits at the Yellowknife Airport. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to promote the airport improvement fee, the Minister said before the renovation began that the improvements would improve the experience of the travelling public and reduce waiting times, but today there is still only one line-up and the travellers are all forced to go through this bottleneck. I'd like to ask the Minister: after \$300,000 in renovations, can the Minister explain how this is an improvement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I can certainly tell you about all the improvements we've done out there with the revolving fund, probably one of the best things this Assembly has done to help improve tourism,

particularly in Yellowknife. We spent a lot of money out there improving the system. The Member has raised the question around the CATSA Plus system, and let's make it quite clear in this House, I am not in charge of CATSA Plus. That's a federal initiative. That's their responsibility, but we are working very closely with them to improve the visitors' and the travelling public's experience.

Now, I have a bunch of notes here that I can clearly go to, but I want to make it quite clear that, you know, I've travelled as much as anybody in this Legislative Assembly, and there are times that I've been out there and I've been frustrated, myself. There are a number of issues around the security wait times. Sometimes, it's too many flights all at once. Sometimes, it's staffing shortages at CATSA Plus. That's probably the biggest concern right now with the CATSA system, is the shortage of employees and the amount of training that needs to be taking place out there, but we have been tracking the CATSA Plus system, along with our improvements that we've done out at the Yellowknife Airport, and we've been tracking it, and it's been down by 30 percent on average of wait times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply, but I don't think that the public is going to find that to be too satisfactory, because, in fact, the Minister's staff, in a previous briefing to Yellowknife City Council, actually indicated and referred specifically that the installation of a CATSA Plus screening system would increase throughput of passengers. So do we have a CATSA Plus system and, if not, why not?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I can assure the Member that the system that is out there at the airport is the new CATSA Plus system.

MR. VANTHUYNE: It would be appreciated if the Minister could share some information at least with the committee, the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, about what a CATSA Plus system entails so that we can get more information.

Mr. Speaker, at the same briefing, the Minister's staff told council to expect a 60 percent increase in throughput with this new system. Now, the Minister has said that it's 30 percent. Can the Minister at least describe to us how they measure it, and are they, in fact, measuring the throughput?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, I did say that it has resulted in a 30 percent increase. We are working to improve it even more. Even though I say it's not our system, we are working with the CATSA Plus people to make improvements out there. The security staff right now is actually doing the monitoring and tracking of wait times, but we are

moving to put in an automated system out at the airport for both security queue times and also we're going to be looking at the luggage wait times. So that's an improvement through the revolving fund that we're also going to be able to track these things and have better data for all the residents of the Northwest Territories. As I've said, the biggest problem we have out there right now with that system is staffing issues. It's not the system, it's not the new configuration that we've put into place, it's the CATSA staffing.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the Minister's reply as it relates to staffing issues, I mean, that's a concern that we all have here in the North, staffing issues. The fact of the matter is that there is still only one line-up. The staff there, quite frankly, in my view and others', they are doing a commendable job. It's just you can't increase the throughput without having more screening systems. So I'd like to ask the Minister: is this it? After \$300,000 and all these improvement fees, is this as good as it gets, or are we going to see a much-improved system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: He's kind of left an open-ended question there for me, so I'm going to take the opportunity to say, you know, the revolving fund has given us an opportunity at the Yellowknife Airport to do a number of improvements. It's not just the CATSA system. That's a system that we're working on. We're working on something that is not even in my control. We're working with the federal government to try to improve it. We went and did other steps outside what I've just said about the new configuration and the staffing issues. For those of you in the House who have travelled lately, we've put up signage in Asian languages to help way-finding systems there to help people, prior to going into the CATSA system, be a little bit more prepared for when they're travelling. There are videos out there in different languages outside the security system to also educate passengers. So we're doing a lot of different things to improve the Yellowknife Airport, not just the CATSA system. There are the runways and all these other things that we're spending this money on.

As I said here probably a couple of weeks ago in my Minister's statement in the House, we're the victims of our own success, again. Landings are up 15 percent. Traffic by passengers is up by 4 percent. We've put in these new systems and we're trying to accommodate the people as best we can. My best recommendation to the travelling public is, you know, we're so used to being a small jurisdiction that we can go to the airport and jump on a plane 10 minutes before it goes, but the reality of it is, in the Yellowknife Airport, you have to start

looking at going out there 90 minutes or 60 minutes prior to departing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 577-18(3):
MACTUNG PROPERTY SALE

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Earlier today I reviewed the history of our government's acquisition and management of a Mactung property. We accepted it as financial security against the shaky Cantung Mine and have spent money cleaning up the site, compiling geological reports, and so on, in the hope of finally trying to sell it. Can the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment tell us how much has been spent to assess and clean up the site, compile geological reports, hire a consultant to file Yukon government applications, and now market it? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a detailed question, and I have to commend the Member for giving me the questions ahead of time, because we had to compile a lot of information on this set of questions. So I'll go through the Member's list. The government has spent \$126,025 removing hazardous and other materials from the site. There has been no assessment of full remediation costs, as this is not work that we are intending to undertake. We have completed Mactung site visits, one by Lands, another resulting in two geological reports on the mine sites and surrounding area, but no formal site assessment has been completed.

This work was completed by the Northwest Territories Geological Survey at a cost of approximately \$30,000 and was aided by helicopter support from the federal government's Polar Continental Shelf Program. The Government of the Northwest Territories has spent \$16,304 for the preparation and submission of the Class 4 quartz-mining land-use permit application and has engaged Tetra Tech as our consultant for this renewal. A local company was engaged in the renewal of licences, and we are currently working on a budget for the sale process. Those numbers have not been yet finalized.

MR. O'REILLY: I want to thank the Minister for that detailed response. I will certainly check Hansard to review that. It is not clear why the Minister is marketing the Mactung property in conjunction with the federal government efforts under way to sell Cantung. These two properties are 140 kilometres away from each other by air and 700 kilometres by

road. Can the Minister explain why we are marketing these properties together, and, if they are for sale separately, what is the asking price for Mactung?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, selling the Mactung deposit together with the Cantung mine will increase the potential viability of the renewed mining operations. That said, we are looking to get more than just the cash payment or a return on the baseline. We are looking to capitalize on the rise of the tungsten prices to translate these world-class resources into good-paying jobs. We believe there is an opportunity for these two projects to create a future Northwest Territories tungsten industry. Selling them together will give us the best possible option and the shortest time frame to converting these assets into a working project that will deliver benefits to the residents and businesses of the Northwest Territories. We also don't want these two assets to compete against each other in what is a relatively small global market of producers and buyers.

MR. O'REILLY: I would like to thank the Minister again for that answer, but he didn't answer one of my questions, which was: how much is the price for the Mactung property? Can the Minister tell us that?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, this is early in the process. We don't have a specific price for this. We want to sell these properties together. It will be an open bidding process with an evaluation that brings the best benefits to the residents of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Thanks to the Minister for that. The Minister has hired a Vancouver consultant to help hype the Mactung property by applying for 10-year Government of Yukon quartz mining land use approval. Such an authorization is supposed to be for an actual exploration program, although it is my understanding that there is no exploration to be undertaken by our government, so the application seems to be an unusual attempt, at best, to inflate the value of the property.

Can the Minister tell us whether there are any precedents in the Yukon for such a speculative land-use application and whether he has any legal advice on the validity of such an application?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, that would be a lead story, but the Member is mischaracterizing what is going on here. The Government of Northwest Territories is required to renew the mining land use permit on the Yukon site of this property in order to keep the property in

good standing. If we don't renew the permit, it is likely that a full site remediation would be ordered and all the potential benefits would be lost. In addition, the potential purchaser requires the ability to conduct exploration work as part of its due-diligence process. This is how a buyer confirms a mineral resource, and it is also a consideration of arranging purchase and financing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 578-18(3):

COMMUNITY HOUSING IN NUNAKPUT REGION

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, with the most recent blizzard in Paulatuk, with winds as high as 140 kilometres an hour, one roof blew apart, which is one of the newer buildings in the community. Mr. Speaker, I am worried the type of construction in the High Arctic communities, the design for a building, will not withstand the winter storms. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister improve the design and quality of homes that are being built in the Arctic and especially in Nunakput, where winter storms are occurring more often? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the roof was designed to withstand the strong winds. Obviously, the damage was unexpected. We will continue to work with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation as well as leadership in the communities, as you have heard me say many times in this House, as we develop our community housing plans to address some of these priorities as we are seeing weather that continues to happen, especially in the community of Paulatuk. I know we had a very strong storm there last year. Obviously, the roof was designed to withstand the strong winds. It is very unexpected, but we will work on continuing to address these kinds of concerns as we move forward, not only in Paulatuk but with all of our communities across the Northwest Territories.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: It is good to see that the Minister is recognizing the harsh winds we have up North. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Housing announced that there will be community housing planning events. There is one scheduled for Paulatuk. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister give an update on what this meeting will consist of and what benefits will it bring to the community, not just the community of Paulatuk, but the region in Nunakput?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As Members know, I did make a statement in this House about our community housing plans last week, that prompted questions from other MLAs on how we are going to move about that and the five stages that we are going to take. Obviously, we do need a buy-in from leadership and community members. We need to raise awareness in the community and have people speak up about what the priorities are in their community as we build these community housing plans.

In my statement that I made last week, we are currently working on six communities. We signed agreements with three of them. We are working on signing agreements with the other three. As we get our staff to get out and have these discussions and get that community input on what they see is needed in their communities, then we will get our staff out, as well, as much as we can. I know they are listening right now, and I know they have been on the road quite a bit, not only discussing community plans but looking at addressing homelessness and other initiatives that we are doing within the department. As soon as we get the communities on a list, we will try to get to them as soon as we can, but, obviously, it is going to take a community buy-in and leadership and continue those discussions.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response from the Minister. It sounds like there is a start to some commitment there. Mr. Speaker, talking about agreements with territorial governments and between the GNWT and the IRC, it has proven to be a successful start on planning for the region. Mr. Speaker, as we move towards the end of this Assembly, will the Minister continue to improve upon the partnership between the IRC and the GNWT to ensure that the number and quality of homes in Nunakput increase with the rising population?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Of course, not only the IRC but all of our Indigenous governments, we have been meeting a lot since I have taken on the portfolio and building on the success and hard work that the previous Ministers have done. We are working to continue to get all of our programs out to the communities. Obviously, with new leadership and new elections, we need to update our leadership on the programs that the NWT Housing Corp provides, such as the community housing support initiatives. We have made that announcement on the co-investment fund. The bilateral agreements are going to have an impact throughout the Northwest Territories, which really prompted something new that hasn't been done before. We are going to be looking at doing an Indigenous housing summit, which we are actually looking at trying to maybe, possibly, create a Northern Housing Summit that we can have all of

our partners and all of our communities participate in, but also invite other jurisdictions, such as the Yukon and Nunavut, to attend, and we will continue that strong partnership with the IRC and continue working with them.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, it is good to see that the Housing Corporation is developing some programs that will involve not just the territory, but also our sister territories across the North.

Mr. Speaker, lately there have been some really pressing housing issues in my region, and I commend the Housing Minister and his staff for the hard work that they do to start to put people in homes, Mr. Speaker. As they develop policy, Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is: will the Minister involve northern MLAs and Indigenous MLAs, who represent Indigenous groups in their ridings, to be involved in developing policy together so that we have continuity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I have also mentioned in the House that we are going through a strategic renewal process within the NWT Housing Corporation that we should be looking at presenting to standing committee, and obviously, we would always want input on that.

As MLAs, part of our job is working on direction of legislation and policies, but also including our leadership in that. One of the big things about the community housing plans is that we want community and local input into what is best for them, and it is going to be something that is going to be done throughout all of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 579-18(3):
QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, my constituents are demanding better quality healthcare, and I would like to ask the Minister: will the quality of healthcare improve once the new Stanton Hospital is completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are lots of things that are happening in the Health and Social Services system with a focus on improving the delivery to all residents. Moving a single authority has given us many opportunities, and the construction of the new Stanton building will certainly help us provide efficient services in that building.

More importantly, for residents outside of Yellowknife, residents of the Member's riding, I think that one of the most important things that we are doing right now is the Cultural Safety Action Plan, which is going to help ensure that our frontline people are trained and understand the environments in which they work.

With that Cultural Safety Action Plan is also primary healthcare reform, and honestly, in my opinion, the primary healthcare reform is really the step that is going to help us improve delivery at the front line for all residents of the Northwest Territories, including residents of his riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: When will my constituents be provided the best quality of healthcare and receive thorough examinations when needed?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That is a very broad question. We know that in the Northwest Territories we do have some pretty great staff out there providing services, and many of our residents are getting timely and good care, but there are certainly residents who are raising issues. It is important for us to learn from those issues.

I would strongly encourage that the Member, and all Members, in fact, if they have a resident who has an issue with the care that they have received, please bring it forward to our quality assurance professionals so that they can review those situations and make recommendations to help us ensure that some of those unfortunate situations are not occurring on a regular basis.

We want to have a system that is constantly evolving, improving, and growing to meet our clients' needs, but we need our residents to be part of that process as well.

MR. BLAKE: My constituents do bring up these issues, but this is an ongoing issue. Many times constituents go for checkups when they have an illness that needs attention, but they are basically given Tylenol and being sent home, and that needs to stop, Mr. Speaker.

Is our quality of healthcare being limited to save money on medical travel, as most high-quality examinations, like MRIs and CT scans, are done in Edmonton? Is that being limited to save on medical costs?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: No.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can residents also travel to Vancouver for medical travel, or does everyone have to go to Edmonton when travelling outside of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Under medical travel, you are referred to the location within our system that has the services available closest. For some individuals, they would come into Inuvik. For some individuals, they might come into Hay River. For some individuals, they would come into Yellowknife.

For things like MRIs and many of our specialist appointments or surgeries, our relationship is with Alberta, so our referral pattern is into Alberta. We are working with a couple of our communities in the Deh Cho to create a relationship with northern BC, but for the most part, all of our referrals are to our partners in Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 580-18(3):
HOUSING BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH
CANADA

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I spoke about the new bilateral agreement on housing announced in November, and today I have some questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

One of the goals of the federal strategy for housing is to expand the stock of rent-assisted housing by 15 percent. Does that mean that the number of special housing units in the NWT will increase by 15 percent to 2,760? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under our current agreement with the federal government, the NWT needs to ensure that we preserve at least 1,231 existing community housing units across the Northwest Territories. Currently, we have double that. I know that there are concerns about waiting lists and that the new National Housing Strategy only provides funding to temporarily address the declining federal support for public housing units.

One solution that we are looking at in addressing this, Mr. Speaker, and to all Members, is that we do have this Homeownership Program, and once we get people into the Homeownership Program, then

we can start increasing our stock. We are also looking at private investment through the current co-investment fund that we did make an announcement on.

If we can start developing those partnerships and working with some of our private industry and getting people into homeownership, then we can start increasing our public housing units across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: The Minister himself has said that having people in public housing turn into property owners has been a challenge, even with various incentives and training programs. What is the rest of the plan to expand the housing stock, given that the uptake on homeownership has been low?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As the Member had mentioned in her statement, we are working on finalizing a three-year action plan. We are going to be working with communities. With the Homeownership Program, we are going to try to get into each of our five districts across the Northwest Territories. We are also doing a lease homeownership program, as well, lease-to-own program. For anybody that is in good standing with the Housing Corporation, we can work with them to start leasing to own their housing unit.

All of these programs that we are working on are going to hopefully open up opportunities to start creating new housing units. We are also looking at a disposable program where we are disposing 50 units a year as our goal. That will open up lots so that we can start building new, improved, energy-efficient units that are going to add to the stock. We have a lot of programs that we are working on with this three-year action plan for the investment of the National Housing Strategy. I think it is going to have an impact throughout our communities across the Northwest Territories.

MS. GREEN: Can the Minister assure Members on this side that all of these initiatives that he has enumerated will result in a 15 percent increase in the number of available units across the NWT?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I think it is the responsibility, not only for the NWT Housing Corporation, our government, but my discussions with Indigenous governments as well as non-government organizations is that we all have to play a part in this. We all have to bring some type of responsibility, bring some skin to the game, so that we can address housing needs across the Northwest Territories. I do know there is a high waiting list, especially here in Yellowknife and in the regional centres. We are continuing to put pressure on the federal government.

One thing that I didn't make comments to is that we are still looking for Indigenous housing funding. We do have a good program with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, but we are trying to bring a stronger voice with all leadership across the Northwest Territories. I can assure Members that we will be making an impact in housing across the Northwest Territories with all of these programs and continued funding from our partnerships with the federal government and Indigenous partners moving forward.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have heard from this government before that we all have a role to play. The fact is we are talking about people who have very low income, people who have finished their work lives and are now seniors, people who are disabled, who are looking for housing. I don't understand what role they are expected to play in creating new housing stock. I feel that the Minister is hiding behind the CMHC declining funding. That funding is not going to decline for another 10 years. Why is the Minister pointing to declining CMHC funding as a reason not to increase the housing stock? Mahsi.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, in the agreement with the federal government, we have to ensure that we preserve at least 1,231 existing units. We doubled that already. We have worked hard to get this bilateral agreement done with the federal government. That gives us the flexibility to do some really good work here in the Northwest Territories. We have carved out some extra funding for the co-investment fund. We are continuing to speak with the federal government on Indigenous housing funding and seeing how we can get more funding moving forward.

In terms of the seniors, we are going to have that study. We are going to present that committee tomorrow, actually. Then, also, we have met with the Disability Council and have invited them to this northern housing summit that we are looking at doing to promote accessibility for people throughout the Northwest Territories as we look at building new stock or how we address people living with disabilities in our housing units. We are working very hard to address the concerns that Members have brought up and assure Members that we will see some positive results moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 581-18(3):
SUPPORTING THE ABORIGINAL SPORTS
CIRCLE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Carrying on to my questions for the Minister of MACA on sports, my first question, Mr. Speaker: the Traditional Games Championship is led by the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT. How does MACA support this organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend all the coaches, the teachers, volunteers, Aboriginal Sports Circle, as well as staff from Municipal and Community Affairs who put on a very successful traditional games this weekend. We have a strong partnership, a strong tradition of working with the Aboriginal Sports Circle.

I do want to let all Members know that, at my Ministers of sports meeting, we did promote our Traditional Games. I have invited the National Aboriginal Sports Circle representatives to come up to the Northwest Territories, as well as our Minister responsible for sport, to look at how we incorporate sport and culture together in our traditions. We do have a strong partnership with the Aboriginal Sports Circle. In terms of the delivery of the traditional games, we do fund them up to about \$125,000. Moving forward, other games that we in this budget have dollars allocated for are multi-sports games, as well.

MR. MCNEELY: Thanks to the Minister for that reply. It was really encouraging when I witnessed the opening ceremony this past Thursday in one of the schools here, the William McDonald School I believe it was. It was really inspiring to see children from all of the communities, the remote communities, coming into the capital. Just the excitement of coming into the capital and being able to go to McDonald's is a privilege. That bonding is taken back home through the games, and I really could commend the Minister in supporting the continuation of the social foundation.

My next question is: what else does MACA do in supporting traditional games events like this championship?

MR. SPEAKER: William McDonald School, that is. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We do continue to support traditional games, whether they are held here in Yellowknife, the annual games, that allow all schools to submit a team. The great thing about that is you have four males and four female representatives, so everyone gets to participate. That is really great to see. Aboriginal Sport Circle and MACA offer support to get students and their coaches here. We do also provide about \$50,000 to

the Aboriginal Sports Circle so that they can get out to the communities and promote traditional games in the communities where a lot of the students or youth might not be able to come to Yellowknife. That is one thing that they are doing, and we support that and promote it.

As I mentioned, when we did speak at our Minister of sports meeting, one thing that we did promote from myself was increased funding from the federal government for all games, whether it is the Arctic Winter Games, Canada Games, Canada Winter Games, Summer Games, Winter Games, Westerns. Then, as I mentioned, we invited our leadership to come up and see how successful and how great we do in promoting our traditional games here in the Northwest Territories.

MR. MCNEELY: This is more of a comment here. I look forward to working with the Minister as we go through the budget deliberations on funding allocations to support this foundation. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Comment to the Executive. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 582-18(3): MACTUNG PROPERTY SALE

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to follow up with the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. I think I heard him say earlier today in response to one of my questions that our government has simply applied to the Yukon government for a renewal of a land-use approval that is already in existence. I did check the land-use approval that we had with the Government of the Yukon. It is LQ00253B. It ran from February 4, 2016 to December 21, 2018, so it has actually expired. Can the Minister tell us again: has our government actually applied for a renewal or a new permit for the work that is to take place at the Mactung site? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume the Member is talking about the quartz-mining land-use approval process in the Yukon. If I am correct, that has been in place for a long time. That exact permit has been in place since 2014, Mr. Speaker. Before that, it has been in place since 2009.

As I said, this renewal is required for the Government of the Northwest Territories to maintain the site and have access to the claims and the leases for any type of activity. This is important for us to renew this thing. Also, from a buyer's perspective, there needs to be this in place so they can go on the ground and do their due diligence if

they are interested in buying this piece of property, and to help support any potential purchaser financing needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I want to thank the Minister for that. I did check the Yukon quartz-mining land-use approval application that was submitted on behalf of our government by Tetra Tech. There is a box in there that says that it is actually a new permit that is being applied for. I will share that with the Minister. I want to quote from the supporting package. It says, "There is currently no formal plan to carry out the activities proposed. The GNWT is seeking a quartz-mining land-use approval in part as a means of increasing the appeal of the Mactung property to prospective buyers."

Can the Minister tell us: is it the intention of our government to actually carry out any exploration, or is this really a play to try to hype up the value of the property?

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to remind Members that that information is not readily available for the Minister to view. If you can, reiterate your question to the Minister, Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to know from the Minister: is it the intention of our government to actually carry out any exploration work at the Mactung property?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, as I've said, this renewal is required by our government to maintain the site. We have to have access to our claims and our leases for any type of activity there. The permit includes approvals for more than just exploration. It covers monitoring activities, remediation, ongoing clean-up, like the work that we did last year at site, and the value is needed for us to keep this permit in place.

MR. O'REILLY: It is my understanding through media reports that the Yukon Conservation Society has raised concerns about the speculative nature of this land-use approval application. Can the Minister confirm whether this is being done to increase the value of the property?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I have clearly said in this House already a number of times today, this is clearly a necessity for us to be able to continue with our permitting process for this property, and, if we do not renew this quartz-mining land-use approval, the Yukon Government can tell us to remediate this site. That is not going to add value to us trying to sell this site and do what we are trying to do for residents in the Northwest Territories, is try to bring another mine on-stream for residents of the NWT so we have jobs, revenue, and the best potential of this site, being non-competitive with the Cantung property if they were separate.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister again for that. Presumably, if we were able to sell this site and the new owner were to take it over, why wouldn't the new owner apply for a quartz-mining land-use approval? Why are we doing it now?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: We are the owners of this property right now, and, if we want to continue on activities of this site, we have to renew this permit. We don't know how long this process is going to take place. We have engaged with the federal government. We have agreed to look at selling these two pieces of property together to get the best potential from both sites by doing them at once. We will continue to work towards that, and we think that this is in the best interest of the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Member for Kam Lake.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

MOTION THAT COMMITTEE REPORT 11-18(3) BE DEEMED READ AND PRINTED IN HANSARD IN ITS ENTIRETY, CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, I seconded by the honourable Member for the Sahtu, that Committee Report 11-18(3), Report on the Review of the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 NWT Human Rights Commission Annual Reports, be deemed read and printed in Hansard in its entirety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

COMMITTEE REPORT 11-18(3):
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2015-2016
AND 2016-2017 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNUAL
REPORTS

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Government Operations ("the committee") completed its review of the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Annual Reports of Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission ("the Commission"). The standing committee would like to thank Mr. Charles Dent, chair of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission, and Ms. Deborah McLeod, director of Human Rights, for their appearance before the committee on February 14, 2018.

About the Human Rights Commission

The NWT Human Rights Act sets up three independent but interrelated agencies; the Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Director of Human Rights, and the Human Rights Adjudication Panel.

The Human Rights Commission is made up of three to five members of the public, each for a term of four years. They are appointed by and responsible to the Legislative Assembly for the general administration of the act. For both 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, Mr. Charles Dent served as chair of the Human Rights Commission and Mr. Yacub Adam as deputy chair. Other members of the Commission serving during the fiscal years in question were Ms. Marion Berls, Ms. Gerri Sharpe, and Ms. Bronwyn Watters.

The director of Human Rights position is also appointed by the Legislative Assembly. The director is responsible for the administration of the complaint process and for overseeing administrative support for the commission's outreach and education efforts. The Office of the Director of Human Rights includes the director, Ms. Deborah McLeod, and Commission staff members who are members of the public service. The Adjudication Panel hears complaints referred by the director, as well as appeals of the director's decisions to dismiss complaints.

The adjudication panel is composed of at least three lawyers appointed by the Legislative Assembly, each for a term of two to four years. In 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, the Adjudication Panel was chaired by Mr. Sheldon Toner, with Mr. Adrian Wright, Mr. Louis Sebert, Mr. Colin Baile, and Ms. Kerry Penney serving as adjudicators during that time period.

The committee wishes to thank all members of the commission and the adjudication panel for their service.

Letter from the Chair

In 2015-2016, Mr. Dent noted that the Human Rights Commission had received the report of the

Comprehensive Review Team on how the NWT Human Rights Act and system performed in its first 10 years. The report confirmed the commission's observations that the system had become too complex, too legalistic, and very hard for people to use unless they had a lawyer. The report's key recommendation was to move to a restorative approach.

The report also recommended that the commission put more focus on broad systemic issues and find a way to work with northern residents and community groups to foster a culture of inclusion. Mr. Dent noted that not all of the changes to the system require amendments to the act and that the Commission was already making efforts to change processes to improve the system.

In 2016-2017, Mr. Dent's letter opens by acknowledging that the commission works in the traditional territories of the Dene, Inuvialuit, and Metis peoples and acknowledges its obligations under Treaties 8 and 11.

In July 2016, the director, commission members, adjudicators, and human rights staff participated in a three-day workshop with Dr. Shaheen Azmi, the director of Policy, Education, Monitoring, and Outreach with the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Dr. Azmi introduced the Commission to ways of diagnosing institutional system discrimination and discussed how Ontario approaches systemic advocacy and identifies issues of public interest.

In September, the commission met with Dr. Marie Wilson to discuss how the commission, as one element in a system of human rights and social justice, can support the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Commission also met with a number of individuals and community groups involved in social justice work.

Comprehensive Review of the Human Rights Act

In 2014, the Human Rights Commission contracted an independent review of the Northwest Territories' Human Rights Act and supporting programs, to mark the 10th anniversary of the act's 2004 implementation. The independent review found that:

- The complaint process is over-legalized, which creates barriers to citizens accessing justice;
- The organizational structure of the three-agency commission is unnecessarily complex;
- The threshold for the referral of complaints is too low to allow the director to properly screen complaints;

- Outreach and services to communities outside Yellowknife are limited; and
- The current focus on individual complaints makes it difficult to effect systemic and institutional changes.

Based on these findings, the review recommended that changes to the human rights system be made to:

- Integrate a restorative approach into all human rights work;
- Unify and simplify the structure of the commission and increase its responsibility in the complaints process;
- Increase public access to the human rights system through stronger individual and community relationships; and
- Identify and address systemic discrimination.

Working with the recommendations of the independent review, the three agencies that currently make up the Human Rights Commission developed an implementation plan titled "Moving Forward: Implementing the Recommendations of the 2015 Comprehensive Review of Human Rights in the NWT," which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 7, 2015.

The standing committee commends the Human Rights Commission, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Legislative Assembly for their collaboration in implementing the findings of the independent review. Committee is pleased to note that this work has culminated in proposed amendments to the Human Rights Act, contained in Bill 30, which presently stands referred by the House to the committee for review. Committee looks forward to reporting to the Assembly on this work later in the current sitting.

Three Agency Working Group

As previously noted, the Human Rights Commission is presently composed of three separate but related agencies. They have a Three Agency Working Group in place to facilitate collaboration.

The Three Agency Working Group met quarterly in 2016-2017. A key focus of their work was preparing for and implementing changes to the human rights system recommended by the independent review. The working group participated in meetings with Justice on the proposal to amend the Human Rights Act. They also focused on increasing the understanding of restorative justice and systemic discrimination by those involved in the NWT's human rights system.

In June 2016, the working group hosted a workshop attended by the director of Policy, Education, Monitoring, and Outreach with the Ontario Human Rights Commission. In the same month, the working group made a presentation on restorative justice to the NWT Bar Association.

In September 2016, the working group participated in sessions with Mr. Kerry Palmer, a trained restorative facilitator and instructor for the Justice Institute of British Columbia. In March 2017, Mr. Palmer returned to facilitate a three-day workshop on systemic discrimination.

Community Outreach

Community outreach makes up a large component of the commission's work. In 2015-2016, the commission:

- Provided information to a Yellowknife group sponsoring Syrian refugees to assist them in accessing multilingual legal help;
- Provided the Sport North Federation with information to assist with program development to promote the inclusion of LGBTQ players in sport;
- Participated in trade shows in Fort Smith and Yellowknife;
- Awarded the 4th Annual Accessibility Award to Ptarmigan Inn of Hay River for their work to make their ATM vestibule wheelchair-accessible;
- Held a presentation by the director to the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists on "Human Rights Principles and Cold Climate Experience" and participated in their Diversity and Inclusion Committee;
- Delivered four workshops to Clark Builders on human rights and workplace harassment;
- Met with the Road Licensing and Safety Division of the Department of Transportation to discuss policies and best practices related to human rights;
- Gave a February 2016 presentation to the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme participants at the Legislative Assembly; and
- Made community visits, including stops at local schools, in Inuvik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic.

In 2016-2017, the commission's varied outreach work continued across the Northwest Territories. Member Gerri Sharpe hosted a bannock table in

Yellowknife during both National Aboriginal Day and Canada Day celebrations and encouraged people to write down their thoughts on reconciliation. Commission Member Marion Berls hosted the bannock table on Canada Day in Fort Smith. The commission also visited Norman Wells and Tulita, but unfortunately had to cancel a planned trip to Deline due to a death in the community.

In addition, the Human Rights Commission:

- Donated \$750 and bottled water to Yellowknife's Rainbows in the Park event supporting NWT Pride;
- Partnered with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the City of Yellowknife, during the Living Together Symposium to host a community discussion about citizenship, inclusion, and multiculturalism;
- Met with the Canadian Human Rights Commission in September to explore ways to improve client services;
- Awarded the 5th Annual Accessibility Award to the Yellowknife Elks Lodge 314 for the renovations made to their building to improve accessibility; and
- Celebrated International Human Rights Day on December 10th in Yellowknife, by holding a luncheon for community groups and members of the public at which Ms. Rita Mueller, assistant deputy minister with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, gave a presentation on how the GNWT has incorporated the history of residential schools into the NWT Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum.

As well, presentations were provided by the commission to the Yellowknife Rotary Club on proposed changes to the commission; the GNWT's Joint Senior Management Committee on gender identity; the Ontario Legislative Interns on the commission's move to a more restorative process; and, through Municipal and Community Affairs' School of Community Government, to a Human Resources Management Course on discrimination, harassment, and accommodation in the workplace.

During the public review, committee thanked Mr. Dent and Ms. McLeod for the commission's outreach work and for the efforts of the commission to be approachable for those in the NWT with low literacy skills and those residents living outside Yellowknife, where the Commission's offices are located.

Areas and Grounds for Complaint

The NWT Human Rights Act protects all people in the Northwest Territories from discrimination in the areas of employment; access to public services, such as hospitals, schools, and stores; tenancy, including business leases; membership in a trade union or professional association; and in published materials such as signs, newspapers, or other advertising.

The act also protects people against harassment based on a protected ground or retaliation for participating in a complaint. A ground is a specific characteristic of an individual. There are 21 protected grounds under the act, including age, disability, race, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, family and marital status, religion, social condition, and political association, to name just some. A complaint may allege discrimination on the basis of more than one ground.

In 2015-2016, employment was the most commonly cited area of complaint, making up 52 percent of all areas cited. As the Human Rights Commission's Annual Report points out, "employers have a responsibility to provide an inclusive workplace so that everyone can feel safe and respected." Harassment was the second most common area of complaint in 2015-2016, at 26 percent.

Fifty-eight percent of all complaints handled by the commission in 2015-2016 alleged discrimination on the grounds of disability, as compared with 32 percent in the previous year. Sex and family status were the next most common grounds for complaint.

In 2016-2017, employment and harassment were again the first and second most often cited areas of complaint, at 46 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of all areas cited.

Disability was again the most commonly cited ground for complaint, making up 39 percent of all grounds cited. Sex was the next most oft-cited ground for complaint, at 15 percent.

Inquiries, Complaints and Adjudication

The Director's Office received 375 inquiries in 2015-2016, and 361 in 2016-2017. Inquiries made at trade shows, community visits, and other public events are not included in these statistics.

Not all inquiries received by the office are related to equality human rights. Wherever possible, human rights officers will direct a person to the agency or organization best equipped to help them. In past public hearings, the commission has advised the committee that an Office of the Ombudsperson would be a welcome counterpart, to which complaints could be referred where those complaints relate to government services and are not based on the areas and grounds for complaint set out in the Human Rights Act.

Nineteen new complaint files were opened in 2015-2016. These were added to 34 in process, for a total of 53 files. Of these 53 complaints, 30 files were closed; 10 were settled, 11 were referred to adjudication, four were dismissed, and five were withdrawn.

Forty-one new complaint files were opened in 2016-2017. These were added to 23 in process, for a total of 64 files. Of these 64 complaints, 11 files were closed; five were settled, one was referred to adjudication, two were dismissed, and three were withdrawn or not pursued.

Complaints that cannot be dismissed at an early stage or resolved through mediation are referred to the Human Rights Adjudication Panel for a hearing. The Adjudication Panel is a quasi-judicial body with the power under the act to hear complaints, render findings, and, where warranted, impose penalties or restitution. In 2015-2016, the panel dealt with 11 new files and 18 in progress, and issued two final decisions, one on a complaint file and one on an appeal of the director's decision. In 2016-2017, the panel dealt with one new file and 26 files in progress and closed 11 files; three were withdrawn, one was settled, and seven decisions were made.

All hearings of the Human Rights Adjudication Panel are public and can be reviewed on the panel's website at hrap.nt.ca.

Conclusion

The Standing Committee on Government Operations thanks the Human Rights Commission of the Northwest Territories for its tireless efforts to promote and uphold human rights in the Northwest Territories and to bring us closer to achieving its vision of "a Territory that is diverse, fair, safe, and inclusive, where everyone is equal."

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Reports of standing and special committees. Member for Kam Lake.

MOTION TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT COMMITTEE REPORT 11-18(3), CARRIED

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that Committee Report 11-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Reports, be received and adopted by the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Masi. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Nahendeh.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 32: NATUROPATHIC PROFESSION STATUTES AMENDMENT ACT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Development has reviewed Bill 32, Naturopathic Profession Statutes Amendment Act, and wishes to report that Bill 32 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 131-18(3), Session Statement; Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates, 2019-2020, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

MR. SIMPSON: I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee would like to consider Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates, 2019-2020, and would like to start with the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The committee will consider the document after a very brief recess. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates 2019-2020. The Minister of Finance, I understand, does not have opening remarks, so we will move right into the department

that we have agreed to consider, the Department of Justice. Does the Minister of Justice have any opening remarks? Minister Sebert.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you, I do. I am pleased to present the 2019-2020 Main Estimates for the Department of Justice. Overall, the department's estimates propose an increase of just over \$3 million, or 2.4 percent, over the 2018-2019 Main Estimates.

Highlights of the proposed estimates include:

- \$1.389 million in forced-growth funding to provide the RCMP with increased capacity to cover the costs of officer participation in new and existing training initiatives and related administrative costs;
- \$179,000 in forced-growth funding to enable the Legal Aid Commission to add a new full-time criminal defence lawyer position in response to rising workloads in this area;
- \$171,000 to cover a 1 percent wage increase for non-unionized employees;
- \$308,000 in federal funding to support investments related to the legalization of cannabis in the Northwest Territories;
- \$269,000 to increase the department's capacity to support GNWT departments in responding to access and privacy matters in a more consistent and efficient manner; and
- \$124,000 to support the establishment of a manager position within the Legal Aid Commission to address operational pressures.

These estimates continue to support the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly by:

- implementing improvements to corrections programming, including the development of enhanced culturally appropriate programming and working with our community partners to support inmates with their reintegration back into their communities;
- supporting the RCMP and communities to strengthen partnerships;
- implementing innovative ways to prevent and reduce crime; and
- supporting initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence.

That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Do you wish to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the Minister's witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Sebert, 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, the deputy minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Welcome to the witnesses. It has been a while since we have been Committee of the Whole, so I will just remind everyone to let us know when you are finished talking so that our tech team can change the mics. Just say "thank you," and the team will know to change the mics, and all exchange goes through myself as chair.

Committee, we earlier agreed to forego opening comments. If that is still the wish of committee, we can begin with the Department of Justice detail. The department itself begins on page 264 of the document, and the first item is community justice and policing, found on page 271. Does committee have questions on community justice and policing? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have questions on page 268, the revenue summary. Is that a page that we are going to go back to? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. The plan was to go through each activity, and then, when we go back to the departmental total, we can consider the org charts, the revenue summaries, et cetera, in the opening portion of the document. Is that acceptable to committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Was there anything on community justice and policing, Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Yes, thank you. This seems like a good time to ask the Minister again about community approaches to sexual assault reporting and sexual assault charges that can be reviewed. Last week he didn't have any answers to these questions about when or how this would happen, and I am wondering if he has been able to obtain more information that he would like to share with us now. Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you. I don't know if I have anything really new than the information that I provided in the House last week. We are, of course, aware about how important this issue is, and we are continuing to work with the RCMP with respect to this matter. Of course, this arose out of a report in 2017 in the Globe and Mail and led to questions about this whole issue, not only in this House, but across Canada, and the police have made efforts. In December 2017 the police released the results of their national review in a document called "The Way Forward," and this included actions to make the police more sensitive and aware, if I can put it that way, through training, to sexual assaults. So work is continuing in this important area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my concern in this area is that the unfounded series that kicked off the debate about third-party review of sexual assault complaints that are considered unfounded, this started two years ago, and the third-party reporting of sexual assaults has been requested since before that. My question for the Minister is: at what point are we going to see a justification for increasing the grants and contributions in this portion of the budget indicating that action is actually being taken on these two issues? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are working with our partners in the RCMP with respect to this important matter and, of course, once we determine the path forward, we likely would require further funding, if such funding is required, which would seem likely. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister has said a number of times how important this issue is, and yet I have to say that there is no progress on this issue. There is an examination of approaches, and a refinement of approaches, and consultation about approaches, but we're still no further toward implementing any approaches or training staff to use them. At what point is the Minister going to pick up some speed on this file and provide some solutions? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. As I have mentioned numerous times, this is an important issue, and we do continue to work with our partners in the RCMP.

Clearly the RCMP internally have made what I would suggest are significant advances arising out of the report that I referenced earlier called "The Way Forward: The RCMP's sexual assault review and victim support action plan." Now, we are working with the RCMP with respect to third-party reporting. That is an important issue, so progress has been made. Further progress is clearly needed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. Yes, further progress is needed, and I would suggest it needs to happen in a quicker way. During our consideration of the business plan, the Minister told us that regular members of the "G" Division will be required to have completed the course called "Consent Law and Common Sexual Assault Myths" by the end of this fiscal year. Could the Minister update us with how many of the "G" Division staff have actually completed this training? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All regular members will be required, as I understand it, to complete the Consent Law and Common Sexual Assault Myths course, which was specifically created to address the issues identified in the RCMP's sexual assault review and victim support action plan. As of January 21, 2019, 139 members, or 71.2 percent, have completed the course. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Minister for that information. So what are the chances that the remaining 29 percent of the members will have completed the training by the end of this fiscal year? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Of course, that is the objective, as I mentioned previously, to have all regular members complete this course. I don't have a date, but hopefully, as I say, all will be able to complete the course. I will check on that to see and inform committee, should they wish, as to progress. As I say, 139 members, I'm told, or 71.2 percent have completed the course. Clearly there is another 28.8 who need to. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. So at this point, Minister, you are not able to confirm whether or not all members will complete

the course by the end of this fiscal year. Is that correct?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: No, I can't confirm that that would be done. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. Well, that is the commitment that was made, and so I'm looking for an understanding about why that commitment can't be met. What's the problem? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: My understanding, Mr. Chair, is that that was the RCMP's commitment, and I certainly will keep committee and Members apprised as to progress, but, again, it's the commitment of the RCMP. There may be operational reasons why they could not get that done sooner rather than later. Clearly, it's an important issue, and most members have completed the course, most regular members. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. Unfortunately, the overall message here is that, while the Minister says that this issue is important, the walk is not equivalent to the talk. I feel there is really room for improvement in this, and I encourage him to make those improvements as soon as possible. That's all for me, thank you.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Looking at the expenditures that are going to kick in here in a few months, or a few weeks, it still allows time for scheduling and planning. My first question related to that is on the funding provided by the federal government for cannabis education. Is the department going to be developing, or has it developed, a community-by-community education plan and schedule? If the Minister recalls, take the Sahtu, for example, only one of five communities was visited by our committee to discuss the legalization of cannabis. Now that we have some money to provide some education about cannabis, is there a schedule to do that for all 33 communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. I believe this is the right section for that question. Perhaps we can just get some clarification, and an answer from the department if it is. Thank you. Minister.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't think we've quite reached that level of detail yet, but Mr. Goldney might be able to expand on my answer. Thank you.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When it comes to the cannabis implementation work of the Department of Justice and the federal funding that has been directed through the Department of Justice, our role really is limited to RCMP training. I can't speak to other departments, but I do know that work is under way through the Department of Health utilizing federal funding for education. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, maybe if the department could work with the Department of Health in providing some consultation education sessions, either at the public level or at the school level, in the coming fiscal year. I put that out as a suggestion to the department. There is still time before this budget kicks in. You have got \$308,000 there for that, and I imagine it could be shared on a 50/50 basis with the Health Department. Increasing the resources there would address targeting all 33 communities.

My next question is on the RCMP participation. You have \$1.3 million to allow forced growth there in providing the RCMP with increased capacity, and in your opening remarks, you mentioned supporting the RCMP and communities to strengthen partnerships. That is kind of a broad statement, but I like that, and I would just like a little bit of explanation of how you intend to strengthen these partnerships. I know that we have a lot of problems in some of these communities more so than others, but building the social fabric of these communities through education and partnerships with the front-line workers is very healthy and one remedy of the solution of stability. I am just wondering how you plan to do that. Is there any preliminary information that you can share? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, that certainly is an important question, but I wonder if we might defer that until we get to policing services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. The Minister has advised that this would be better left until policing services, which is one of the later activities. It is found on page 288. Do you have any other questions related to community justice and policing, Mr. McNeely, and we will get

back to you when we get to policing services? Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. We will move that to the appropriate page there, as you mentioned. The overall Justice Department, when you look at the pie, expenditures are good. I am in support of the department moving further once the budget is passed, if it is passed, and implementing the expenditures to improve some of the areas that we are going to be suggesting here today.

One of the areas that I think we really need improvement in is rehabilitation and reconciliation program delivery in our North Slave Correctional Centre. At any given time, if we went there with a taxi later on, I think you can find out on hand how many programs are actually being delivered. I think we can improve in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. The next section is corrections, so we will delve more into that. Do we have anything further from committee? I see Mr. Thompson is on the list.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess my first question is about the integrated case management pilot. Has the department improved coordination between the program and NGOs presently? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, this is an important initiative, and we are always, of course, attempting to improve our delivery of services to our citizens. I think Mr. Goldney might be able to expand a bit on my response, if I may, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The focus, really, for the work of ICM right now has been on continuing the good work and learning lessons, recognizing that it is currently still in the pilot project phase until 2020. One of the things that we certainly are learning is that there is a huge appetite for broadening these services and making those connections. The focus, frankly, however, has been on running the program as designed currently and learning the lessons that we are learning.

As we are doing this, we are very mindful that we do have a bit of a countdown clock here, and we do need to come up with a model that makes sense for expanding and further delivery, not just for Yellowknife, but for all of the residents of the Northwest Territories. We do expect to be able to come forward with a new model that has some new features that will include some of the things that we

are hearing from all of our community partners. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Sorry, Mr. Chair, I think the Minister asked to follow up on that information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister, would you like to add something?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, of course. It has been mentioned by the deputy minister that this is a pilot project. In my view, it has been a pretty successful project, so we are looking at it moving forward, and as I say, looking at the numbers of referrals, it appears to be a well-used program, but it is, of course, a pilot at this stage. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I know it is a pilot project, and I have heard from the deputy minister and the Minister about potential expansion plans. Can the Minister share whether we are starting to do the planning now, or are we waiting until when this pilot project is completed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. We do realize the importance of this, and my deputy minister, along with others, is working on the whole idea of integration and case management. Yes, we are working on this, and we are not waiting until the last minute, if that is the question. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell us how long this program has been going on? When did it start? We know it is going to be ended in 2020. Can you tell us when it started and how long it has been running since? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: My understanding is that the pilot was a three-year program ending in 2020, March 31st, I assume.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is this program a federally-funded program, or is this actually being funded by the territorial government? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that this is funded by our own resources. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going on to another topic in this area here, but when we talk about family violence, is it still the Department of Justice that is taking the lead on this? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. This is important work, and it is shared by several departments. Mr. Goldney could perhaps give more detail, but we do realize the importance of this. It's just not our department.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, this work cuts across many departments, including the Department of Health and Social Services, the Housing Corporation, and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and other partners as well.

There is a working group that has been tasked with exploring the programs that we have in place now related to this issue and tasked with coming up with recommendations for improvement and advancement. I wouldn't say that the department is the lead, but we certainly do take an active role, along with the other participants. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since it is a multi-departmental approach, how is the work being done incorporating community partners and the other stakeholders? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right now, the work is focused internally within the GNWT, but there are many of our programs directed at this work that do involve community partners, as well.

So that's part of the discussion that is ongoing, but the focus really has been internal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's my understanding that it's the final year for federal funding for the Family Information Liaison Unit, so can the Minister please elaborate on where we are with this work? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you. The Family Information Liaison Units, or FILUs, help missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls' families find information about what has happened to their loved ones. About 50 family members, I'm told, have asked NWT FILU staff for help with their research. Cases span the years, according to this note, from the 1953 to 2018 time frame, and every provincial and territorial government has received federal funding to establish a Family Information Liaison Unit. I see that the federal government provided \$285,000 in 2017-2018 and \$351,000 in 2018-2019 to support the GNWT's FILU salaries, administration, training, and travel. We are expecting that, in 2019-2020, or we are hoping that it would likely be a similar amount to those I mentioned earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So we're in our last year, but have we approached the federal government and asked if we're going to be expanding this? Because we haven't seen a lot of results right now, and people are looking forward to or hoping that we can continue this, so have you reached out to the federal Minister and asked if they will be expanding this for future years? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I understand that our officials have reached out to their counterparts in the federal government regarding this work. Thank you.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. Could the Minister elaborate if there has been a positive reception from the federal government in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that nothing has been finalized to this point, but that the discussions have been encouraging. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson, 30 seconds.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you Mr. Chair, and I'll try to get these 30 seconds in and give him a chance to answer the question. Emergency protection orders. Have there been any changes or expected changes to this program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand that there are about 65 emergency protection orders that are judicially confirmed each year. I don't think, and I'll stand to be corrected if I'm wrong, that we're planning a change in the legislation in this area. We do recognize that this is an important way that we can support victims, so it is very important, the so-called EPOs. I don't think we're contemplating changes in the legislation in this area. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister confirm that the Integrated Case Management Pilot started in 2017 and will run until 2020? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't want to change my response because there is a different questioner, but my understanding is that it ends on March 31, 2020. We're sure of that, and we are confident that it started three years ago. It's a three-year program, I'm told. Heads are nodding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister, for assisting us with that complicated math. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm looking at a news article on the CBC from September of 2017, and in that it's quoted as saying that 215 referrals have been made to the program since October of 2015, referencing Integrated Case Management. Prior to occupying this seat, I spent some time working in the Minister's department. That was prior to 2015, and my recollection was that Integrated Case Management was going on

then. Why this is relevant, Mr. Chair, is that I understand evaluating a three-year program and determining how to proceed, but if this is more like a six-year program or a seven-year program, then it seems like it should no longer be a pilot. You know, we have officials and the Minister saying this is a great program, we need to keep going with it, so is this information incorrect? Is my own recollection incorrect? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Perhaps the Minister could clarify whether this is a second or third iteration of this program, or what the case may be. Minister.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I might, I'd like to defer the question to Mr. Goldney, as he may have more accurate information than I possess. Thank you.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the Member is correct in his recollection, and that report is accurate, but I do think we have to acknowledge there was a start and a stop to the program, with a bit of a redesign along the way. When we talk about ICM as we are piloting it today, it is the three-year program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you. I appreciate that. Are we going to keep piloting this, I guess? I mean, this budget is obviously continuing to pilot it, but are we going to see an expansion? When do we get out of the pilot phase? Can the Minister shed any light on that? Because once it's five or six or seven pilots, it's not a pilot anymore, it's an appropriation for a program. So, again, if we could have clarity on the future of the ICM program? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not certain whether there is any limitation on the number of pilots you can have, but the program, in our view, has been successful. I cannot commit to this, but I think it's time that we take a very careful look at this. It has been a success, and perhaps it's time to move ahead to a program that is not a pilot. In fact, that's the goal of the work that we're doing at this time, or the department is. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you. I'm looking at an undated presentation that is available on the Department of Justice's website, and it indicates

that short-term outcomes of the project are that being housed in Community Justice has been a neutralizer, that departmental barrier work is challenging many individual-level successes, and that the current ICM model may not be sustainable. Are these still findings of the pilot in its current form, or have these been addressed? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Perhaps I might defer that to Mr. Goldney. I know that there have been challenges, of course, with this program, but overall we see it as a success. Mr. Goldney might be able to expand on that answer. Thank you.

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

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that that commentary on the program is still accurate. Nevertheless, we do see the pilot as a success, as it is teaching us things along the way. The goal of the work under way is to evolve and direct our resources into something that is a more sustainable model, again learning from some of those lessons that we have experienced through the pilot project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you. I appreciate that, and I do support this kind of -- this, the Wellness Court, the DVTO Court, they are all very worthwhile alternative methods of supporting people in the system. I don't want to give the impression that I don't support the program, but what I am getting at is that I agree with you. I would like to see us take this out of the pilot and move forward. It sounds like we are in that trajectory, so that is a good thing. That is all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. My colleagues had some questions about the integrated case management pilot project, but I do want to ask some questions about Victim Services if I can.

I note that I think there was a review done back in 2013-2014. I know I raised this issue in the House as well as with the Minister, and I understood that there was going to be a more comprehensive review of Victim Services in 2019-2020. Can the Minister confirm that and let me know what level of resources have been allocated for that Victim Services review? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you. The Member has brought this matter to my attention, and I do have a copy of the report from 2014 on my desk.

The department is currently preparing the scope for a program review of Victim Services. The intent is to have a contractor in place early in 2019-2020 and a final report later in the year. This is important. This is an important area, and this report will be a key document to guide us in any future decisions regarding the program and how it is delivered in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister for that. Can the Minister share that document that he was referring to? It was some sort of terms of reference or scope of work for the contractor. Can the Minister commit to share that with the Standing Committee on Social Development? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, I can undertake to do that. I don't know whether the report or the terms of reference have been finalized yet, but, when finalized, we will provide it to the committee or the Member or both.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. For the record, the Minister has committed to providing the Standing Committee on Social Development with the terms of reference once finalized. Is that correct, Minister?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. We can do that.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister for that commitment. What would work even better in our consensus-style government is if the Minister could commit to share it as a draft with the standing committee so that the standing committee might actually have some input into it. This is an area of ongoing interest that I and other Members have raised. Could the Minister commit to sharing a draft with the standing committee in our consensus-style government system? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We always like to cooperate with committee, and I think

we could meet and provide a draft on a confidential basis. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): For clarification, the Minister is committing to share the draft on a confidential basis with committee. Is that correct, Minister?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I want to thank the Minister for that commitment. I take it sincerely, and I am glad to try to work with him on that.

I did have some questions around the A New Day program. I know that when the transition was made from the old program, which was run by a non-profit, it went to a different kind of arrangement for five years with the John Howard Society where, basically, they were contracted to provide counselling services. Can the Minister tell us how well the new approach on the A New Day program is actually working? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, I think I can provide some figures that will assist in understanding where we are at with this program.

I am looking at the number of registrations, which has changed a bit over the years. Now, not all registrations, unfortunately, lead to completions, but in 2013, there were 29; in 2014, 13; in 2015, 37; in 2016, 47; in 2017, 24; and in 2018, 50. Completions is often disappointing: we are zero in 2013-2014; two in 2015; 17 in 2016; five in 2017; and five in 2018.

Now, one thing that I would like to add is that men who are in custody at NSCC can register to meet with the counsellor when he next visits the correctional centre. The NSCC group meets twice weekly.

I sought some more information on this, and I understand that the entire program can be completed by inmates while in custody. I think that that is an enhancement of what was done before, because I don't know if you could do that before.

There seem to be a lot of registrations, and completions are disappointing, frankly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister for providing those numbers. Can

individuals who are in remand access the A New Day program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Of course, this is a voluntary program that people have to agree to enter into. I understand that they can, while on remand, enter into the program. Of course, one of the problems with remand is that their release date, if that is the right word, or the date that they will no longer be in remand is sometimes not known because they have upcoming court dates. I don't know whether that might be a discouragement to them from entering into the program, but they do have the ability to enter into the program. Sometimes they are on remand for a very long period of time and could avail themselves of this program. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister for that. Just so that I understand this: if an individual completes the remand and they are discharged, can they still continue with the program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, my understanding is that you can commence the program while in custody and complete it when out of custody, if that is the question. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister for that. I do support a more flexible program that is available to folks that need it, so that is good to hear. Can the Minister tell us: are there any other metrics that are used to measure the success of this program, other than registrations, completions, and so on? Is there any attempt to measure recidivism, or are there any other metrics that are used to measure success? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not sure whether we have that information available. I don't think that we do. I mean, that would be important. I do understand the importance of the question, because it does take considerable effort to get through the program, and there are, over the years, not that many completions. It would certainly be discouraging to know if there had been

recidivism amongst those that complete it. That would be very disappointing. I don't know whether we would have the ability to access that information. Anyway, I get the point. We do not have that information. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister and his staff there. I don't have any further questions, but I guess I would like to encourage the department to think a little bit more about how we actually measure the success of the A New Day program moving forward beyond just registrations and completions. I think that is just numbers in and so on. I want to know how effective the program actually is, and I think the Minister would want to know that information as well. Thanks to the Minister and his staff for the answers to the questions. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I understand the question or the comment very well because, as I stated before, there is not much point having a program if it is not successful. We will look into it. I don't think there would be privacy issues involved in this, but I will look into it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Justice, community justice and policing, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$5,547,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Chair rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion to report progress. Would the Minister please take his seat. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the chamber.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main Estimates, 2019-2020, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Thursday, February 21, 2019, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
11. 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 36, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Resources Act

- Bill 37, An Act to Amend the Oil and Gas Operations Act

19. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Minister's Statement 131-18(3), Sessional Statement
- Tabled Document 322-18(3), Main 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 stands adjourned until Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:38 p.m.