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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, March 3, 2009****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:35 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. For the information of Members and our guests in the audience, we have interpreters this week. Channel two is Dogrib and channel three is North Slavey.

Also, before begin to the orders of the day, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a special day for a couple of our Members here in the Chamber today. I would like to wish a happy birthday to the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee...

---Applause

...and also to the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

---Applause

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 46-16(3):
GNWT KNOWLEDGE POLICY IMPLEMENTING
FRAMEWORK AND ENR TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE PLAN

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, traditional knowledge is an essential component of program management within the Government of the Northwest Territories and we are committed to incorporating traditional knowledge into our programs and services.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible for implementing the Traditional Knowledge Policy. As the lead department, ENR coordinated the interdepartmental working group which developed the GNWT Traditional Knowledge Policy Implementation Framework. The framework will guide the

government-wide implementation of traditional knowledge.

The GNWT recognizes the need to consider both traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge in our decision-making. The inclusion of traditional knowledge is vital for the development of sound natural resource management plans and programs. The Traditional Knowledge Policy was established by the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1997. The policy was meant to ensure that traditional knowledge played a significant role in government programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, the policy defines traditional knowledge as "knowledge and values which have been acquired through experience, observations from the land or from spiritual teachings, and handed down from one generation to another."

We have been successful in incorporating traditional knowledge into a number of projects including construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure, environmental monitoring and management of our wildlife and forest resources.

Additionally, we have conducted extensive consultation with traditional knowledge holders on exhibit development at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. The Department of Health and Social Services recently worked with the Dene Nation to incorporate into palliative care programs and services.

Although traditional knowledge is already being incorporated into a wide range of departmental initiatives, there is opportunity for further implementation.

The GNWT is dedicated to working with all Northerners to build a strong and independent North taking advantage of the unique experience and knowledge that partners bring to the table.

Mr. Speaker, our commitment to traditional knowledge is firm and we are eager to apply it in an appropriate and thoughtful manner to a wide range of government initiatives. The interdepartmental working group will coordinate and support departments in fulfilling the spirit, intent and obligations of the Traditional Knowledge Policy.

Due to differing mandates, some GNWT departments and agencies have a greater opportunity and obligation to incorporate traditional knowledge into their programs and services in the way in which they do business. As a result, the extent to which departments can implement the Traditional Knowledge Policy will vary. ENR has completed a departmental Traditional Knowledge Implementation Plan. It forms part of the overall GNWT Traditional Knowledge Policy Implementation Framework.

The implementation priorities of the ENR plan include improved coordination of traditional knowledge implementation as well as increased awareness, training, collaboration, promotion and support of traditional knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that traditional knowledge is best preserved through the continued use and application. Through the development of a formal implementation framework for our Traditional Knowledge Policy, I am confident traditional knowledge will remain an integral part of government-wide operations and services.

From determining the cumulative effects of human activity on our land, water and natural resources to guiding the development of community infrastructure, traditional knowledge will form an important part of the knowledge base of our government.

Later today, I will table both the GNWT Traditional Knowledge Policy Implementation Framework and the ENR Traditional Knowledge Implementation Plan. I look forward to updating Members on our government's progress in formally implementing traditional knowledge into our programs and services.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 47-16(3):
MARINE SAFETY TRAINING COURSES
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TOURISM
OPERATORS

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, according to new Transport Canada regulations tourism operators and guides who use motorized boats in unsheltered waters are now required to attain certain levels of training and certification. While these new requirements are dependent on a number of factors, they will nevertheless have a significant impact on the men and women who make up parts of our tourism industry and who must now pay the cost to obtain this new certification.

I have been informed by representatives of our tourism industry and Aurora College that, in fact, the expense and logistics of accessing and receiving the required training will not be feasible without government assistance. For that reason, I would like to advise the Members of this House and the Northwest Territories tourism industry that the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, through training investments allocated under the Tourism 2010 plan, will fund opportunities in coming months. This funding will provide marine safety training courses for those licensed tourism operators in the Northwest Territories impacted by the Transport Canada decision. The first course of training will be delivered on May 25th to 29th in Yellowknife, with other locations and times to be determined based on demand.

Wherever possible, this government is committed to investing in education and training that will enhance the opportunities and choices of Northwest Territories residents. I would encourage all individuals impacted by this decision to seek out and obtain the required training by contacting the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment office in their region. The department will be sending out notices to the tourism operators along with annual registration packages beginning next month.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 48-16(3):
HONOURING PHILLIP RABESCA

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Tlicho region and the Northwest Territories experienced an unfortunate loss recently with the passing of Phillip Rabesca of Behchoko, also known as Phillia. Phillia was a skilled and educated interpreter-translator with a high level of fluency and literacy in his language. His knowledge and understanding of the Tlicho language was respected across the Territory. He worked with everyone in the community, including schools, the church, government, and the RCMP, to help people understand each other. In his relatively short lifespan he amassed a collection of works translated into the Tlicho language that will help our people keep our language for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, his commitment to the land and culture was well known in the region. He was very well respected by people of all ages. He had a detailed understanding of Tlicho land and boundaries and spent as much time as he could out on the land.

Phillip was not an outspoken person, but many people came to him for his quiet perspective and advice.

Phillip had been sick for some time before he passed away, but he continued to transcribe stories, even from his hospital bed, and used every bit of time he had left to share with his family and friends. It had been our hope to honour him with a special language leader award for his lifetime of dedication and learning. I am sorry to have to recognize his work posthumously.

I pass my condolences to his partner, Leslie Saxon, and his friends and family in the Tlicho community and around the Northwest Territories. We have lost a great Northerner and a great man.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 49-16(3):
SOCIAL WORK WEEK MARCH 2-6, 2009

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we celebrate National Social Work Week from March 2nd to 6th this year it is important to recognize the exceptional work that social workers do for people in the communities.

This year's theme is "Social Workers – Making a Difference in Seniors' Lives". Seniors and elders in all of our communities are our greatest source of strength. They bring value to our communities and provide a wisdom that social workers can learn from as they provide support to them.

Across the Northwest Territories social workers assist our seniors and elders in so many ways; by assisting with income related issues, discharge planning from hospitals, planning for care at home, and by helping our seniors cope with mental and physical health issues, including the issues related to elder abuse.

It is important to recognize that social work practice is rooted in the desire to provide a service to humanity. In the North we have over 140 diverse positions that employ social workers within the Department of Health and Social Services alone. Social work includes mental health and addictions, community social service workers, corrections and family counselling services, among other areas.

Social workers have unique training and education. This scope of practice prepares them to work in the non-profit and government sectors to advocate for important issues, such as social equality, eradicating poverty, and to support those who are more vulnerable; for example, children and elders. Social equality is always at the forefront.

Mr. Speaker, social workers are challenged with the delivery of day-to-day services for children, youth, adults, and elders. They have a very important role of ensuring that the health and well-being of persons in need are being addressed and achieved. I am aware of the skills and creativity used by social workers to problem solve, advocate, and provide effective services to the people of the North. I am also acutely aware of the challenges created by some of the limited resources available in communities.

Mr. Speaker, in my role as Minister of Health and Social Services I have come to appreciate the magnitude of the responsibilities of social workers and I am confident in the services that they provide. My experience has given me the opportunity to better understand the challenging roles and responsibilities of front-line social workers. I recognize that social workers need to maintain a delicate balance of services while adhering to legislation and combining this with best practice deliverables to our people.

Mr. Speaker, the contribution of the work that social workers provide to our people is invaluable and I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all social workers during this National Social Work Week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REVIEWS OF POWER RATES AND POWER CORPORATION OPERATIONS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support some system to look at the right reviews that are taking place in regards to the power rates in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, this issue has been around for some time. I believe that the people in the Northwest Territories are asking for change. Mr. Speaker, the change we are looking at is in regards to the review of power rates and the high cost in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we do have to have a review process for looking at 28 applications for diesel communities that the Power Corporation provides power to; five communities that depend on hydro and, more importantly, a review of the regulatory process that it follows. The PUB process that reviews these applications is based on a processed camp rate community by community. Mr. Speaker, this process costs some \$3 million in which the ratepayers have to pay back.

Mr. Speaker, there are 33 communities in the Northwest Territories that have different types of rates. We have eight hydro communities, 23 diesel communities and two natural gas communities. Yet, Mr. Speaker, people have always said, why is it that the power rates are so high in our diesel communities compared to hydro communities? Mr. Speaker, in order for us to get to the bottom of this, we do have to have a review process in place. I, for one, support the initiatives of the government in looking at all these aspects and that one of the priorities of the 16th Assembly is to reduce the cost of living in our communities. One of the highest costs for our communities is energy.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that we do have to continue on with these reviews and, more importantly, assist the people in the Northwest Territories to reduce the high cost of power and the power rates in our communities. Mr. Speaker, with that, I will be asking the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation questions on this matter later. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 2008 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES REVIEW

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, as many know, in the lead-up to the Arctic Winter Games last year there was a lot of controversy surrounding team selection and representation as to who had jurisdiction: Sport North, regional sports councils, MACA. Also the Sport and Recreation Council decided that they could no longer support funding games from lottery money. In fact, it was not appropriate to do so.

As a consequence of these events, Municipal and Community Affairs decided to conduct a games review and they hired a consulting firm last fall. The report was to be timely and subsequent decisions would be based on recommendations included in the report. Normally there is a good debriefing by the sports community after each Arctic Winter Games but, in light of the review, this debriefing was delayed so any insights could be included in the community assessment. However, now in the long absence of the supposed timely review report, frustration has built up in the sport community involved with Arctic Winter Games. Unfortunately, because of the games review, there has not been a forum for debriefing with respect to the Arctic Winter Games themselves.

Mr. Speaker, though apparently submitted to the Minister months ago, the games review report has still not been released to the public. With the Summer Games fast approaching and still no funds allocated within the MACA budget for games, Sport North is caught between a rock and a hard place.

Before we know it, we will be into the thick of preparing for the March 2010 Arctic Winter Games, certainly within the coming fiscal year of the 2009-10 budget. My understanding is that we will be frantically seeking \$90,000 for the Summer Games and \$450,000 for the Arctic Winter Games. Once again, Mr. Speaker, we have a recipe for disaster. Where is the clarity that was promised during the last kerfuffle? Where is the timely report on the lessons learned and solutions proposed and consultation with the sports community?

Our sport groups need the budgets to do their jobs up front and predictable so they don't constantly deal with panic situations. Where are the games dollars, Mr. Speaker? Are we going to waste time again on a fully predictable supplementary appropriation and leave our public hanging until that gets done belatedly through backdoor financing once again? I will have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REVIEWS OF POWER RATES AND POWER CORPORATION OPERATIONS

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to follow up on some discussions held here in the House yesterday on the different power-related reviews currently underway. During this sitting, there has been a significant amount of discussion on highly controversial changes being put forth by Cabinet, specifically the changes to supplementary health benefits and the direction taken on board reform. One of the most obvious problems with both of these initiatives is the lack of public consultation and research obtained in order to make informed decisions.

The Regular Members' frustration with this type of direction peaked during the debate to revoke Cabinet appointments on February 6th. Although the motion was defeated, I believe the Cabinet heard what many of the Regular Members were saying. I would even say that improvements in communication between Cabinet and Regular Members is already happening. An area that I feel demonstrates this is the direction Cabinet has taken with respect to the three separate but related power reviews.

It is clear, power rates are too high. They are negatively affecting residents throughout the NWT and something must be done. The reviews of the NWT Power Corporation and the separate electricity rate review will go a long way to encouraging public input and allowing government

to get real, concrete information and public opinion on where problems lie and what some possible solutions might be. To their credit, Cabinet has met with committee on several occasions to outline the process. Further, again yesterday, the Premier committed to getting terms of reference for the reviews to help put them into context.

In the absence of the information that these reviews will provide, I believe that we will be limited in our ability to make informed decisions on the future of power supply and rates in the NWT. So I support Cabinet's direction on these reviews.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the ATCO proposal, I believe it would be irresponsible not to conduct a thorough review of this submission. We must know our options. We should leave no stone unturned. Currently I do oppose the sale of this critical asset. However, in the absence of information and analysis which this review and the other two reviews will gather, it is a little premature to say that we know absolutely what is in the best interest of Northerners for both today and into the future. We need the information. So I support the reviews to the ATCO proposal as well.

As a note, I was very happy yesterday to hear the Premier state very clearly that Cabinet has not made a decision to sell the NWT Power Corporation to ATCO. Unless the review clearly demonstrates the sale to ATCO is in the best interest of all residents today and into the future and will reduce power costs, there is no reason to sell it. Why sell our long-term future for short-term gain?

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. ABERNETHY: On issues of this magnitude, we need to work together to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of all people of the Northwest Territories. The findings of these reviews will be a valuable tool as we move forward. I look forward to further discussion and debate on these topics as we move forward. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will have questions for the Premier. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REVIEWS OF POWER RATES AND POWER CORPORATION OPERATIONS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will join my colleagues in talking about the review of the NWT electricity system. Mr. Speaker, as

someone who has long advocated for the most affordable power rates to our residents, I welcome the reviews of the Northwest Territories electricity system that are currently underway. These reviews will provide residents, business owners, community leaders and other stakeholders with an opportunity to give voice to their concerns and bring forward their ideas for improvements to our current system.

Mr. Speaker, these reviews are long overdue. During the last session I spoke about the high energy costs and impact this is having in our communities and on our residents. I spoke about the frustration community government leaders have with the cost of electricity and the management of the NWT Power Corporation. This frustration had led to the large non-hydro communities, like Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Inuvik, to consider a number of options including finding alternate energy suppliers. If these three communities withdraw from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, this could have a serious impact on the remaining NTPC customer base and overall operations of the NTPC.

These community leaders have put two options forward. One would be to treat every resident of the Territory the same and bring in the one-rate zone. The second option, Mr. Speaker, would be to enter into an agreement with another energy supplier with the capacity to develop some of the vast hydro potential in our Territory.

Mr. Speaker, these three reviews that the government is currently engaged in -- electricity rates and regulations, the structure and efficiency of the NTPC and the review of the ATCO proposal - is the kind of action so many people have been calling for. They also provide a venue to discuss alternatives like the ones proposed by community government leaders. The information gathered through the community and stakeholder consultations will hopefully provide the government with a roadmap for redesigning our electricity system that will result in real change. By that, I mean affordable power rates for all Northerners and an efficient electricity system that will provide benefits to the NWT well into the future. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ANIMAL RIGHTS LEGISLATION IN THE NWT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak today to the issue of animal neglect, cruelty and abuse. Along with many Northerners, I was shocked and in disbelief yesterday when I heard that charges were stayed against a Behchoko man who was charged last September after the local government in Behchoko called in a veterinarian to

examine his sled dogs because of concerns about their health and living conditions. The veterinarian determined that 34 of the sled dogs were so malnourished they had to be euthanized.

Mr. Speaker, the Crown stayed the charges of animal neglect in this case because they felt it was unlikely of getting a conviction. To me this is a very, very sad commentary on our current animal protection laws here in the Northwest Territories and an indication that we must take action. The current Dog Act is woefully insufficient, ineffective and, as the name clearly states, does not even begin to address any other pets or animals.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories desperately needs an animal rights act. We have seen and heard far too many stories of animal neglect and abuse, and are getting a bad name both nationally and internationally for not protecting animals. I believe we can come up with a piece of legislation that will protect animals here in the Northwest Territories. We need to look at much tougher fines, incarceration for more serious offences and, at the same time, this new legislation should respect lawful and traditional pursuits such as hunting, fishing and livestock.

Mr. Speaker, without adequate and proper legislation in place it makes it almost impossible to get a conviction in the Northwest Territories. Our neighbours to the west in the Yukon have come up with an action plan to address the animal rights issue. They were prompted to act when a man shot 56 dogs on his property in Dawson City and there was nothing the authorities could do about it.

Mr. Speaker, we have had this latest incident in Behchoko coupled with the freezing death of many more sled dogs in Tuktoyaktuk recently and the picture begins to get much clearer. We need to move to protect animals from abuse and neglect and we must be able to pursue those who commit these heinous acts so that they face real consequences like time behind bars.

Mr. Speaker, as a legislator I would support this government taking some clear and urgent action to address our archaic animal rights legislation here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT HC HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAMS

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday, it is the time of the year for the deadlines for all applications

for NWT Housing Corporation homeownership programs. More specifically, Mr. Speaker, I spoke about the need for the corporation to deliver a more aggressive communications strategy and develop a more client-friendly orientation program. Mr. Speaker, many clients are left frustrated and confused when dealing with the NWT Housing Corporation applications and programs. When it comes to these all-important deadlines, Mr. Speaker, many are left scrambling at the last minute in order to complete their applications. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, many just don't bother and they don't apply.

Mr. Speaker, in my riding, with respect to homeownership houses, there are approximately 50 homeownership units in Lutselk'e and approximately 100 homeownership units in Fort Resolution. Mr. Speaker, if we break that down even further you see what it would take for the NWT Housing Corporation staff to go door to door. The core needs in these communities are approximately 40 percent. That leaves about 60 households in Tu Nedhe to visit.

Mr. Speaker, another important exercise that could go a long way to improving client/corporation relations is the regular delivery of various housing and homeownership workshops in the community for the people. In general, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the Housing Corporation to reach out to the people in need and make the extra effort to obtain applications from everyone that needs help. Later today I will have questions for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPERTY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Merci, Monsieur President. Mr. Speaker, buying a home is likely the largest purchase many of us will ever make. It's important that buyers do everything that they can do to ensure that their decision to purchase a home is well-informed. It is also important that there are consumer protection measures in place to ensure that the seller of the home discloses all reasonable information about the condition of that home and property that they are selling.

Mr. Speaker, proper disclosure statements have been introduced by real estate associations in many provinces. They are detailed forms that ask a property seller to disclose any defects to prospective buyers. They typically ask questions about any known structural defects, flooding problems, plumbing and mechanical problems and

even include questions about possible environment liabilities. At this moment, there are no legal requirements for completing these statements. They provide prospective buyers with information which might not be readily seen through a casual inspection or a walk-through. Misrepresentation regarding the physical conditions or defects of a property are common reasons why people go to court. If defects are disclosed, the disclosure statement can equally protect the seller if any litigation occurs because the buyer has bought a property knowing about the defects. In the end, this ensures that the purchaser is fully informed and is able to make an informed decision.

Mr. Speaker, while the disclosure statement is not a legally binding warranty of the property and the condition, it does provide some protection to both the buyer and the seller in these real estate transactions. However, it not only covers what the owner knows but it doesn't replace the fact that a good home inspection is still necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Minister responsible for consumer protection to work with the NWT realtors and our home inspection industry to implement the use of a property disclosure statement. This will help create strong protection for all consumers, particularly when they are making one of the biggest purchases in their life, which is a home for their family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GRAVEL ACCESS ROAD IN PAULATUK

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement today is on the Nunakput community of Paulatuk. For years we've been trying to establish a gravel site. Recently the hamlet has identified the site and has rough road access. They received some funding from the Department of Transportation and the rest of the funds come from the community. Because the funding arrangement amount is so small that they received from the GNWT, the work can't be done. On the road it's minimal and uncertain. In addition to the access road, it requires consistent maintenance due to all the erosion in the design.

This access road in Paulatuk's gravel source may not grab the headlines, but it's just as important with the community's social and economic development. Without access to gravel, the community cannot grow. It is literally the foundation of any community. Gravel is required to build roads, lots for new homes, businesses, et cetera. The cost is so high that the communities such as Paulatuk become unattractive for even the limited investment that they receive. The limited availability of gravel is

another example of unique challenges experienced by many small and remote communities that larger centres need not worry about.

It is no longer acceptable to tell the communities that because the costs are so high that communities will just have to do without. This government needs to commit multi-year and adequate funding to provide certainty to the community that the access road will be available for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions at the appropriate time for the Minister of MACA. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE NWT ADOPTION ACT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to speak to a missing provision in our Adoption Act. As it stands now, a birthmother who is looking to place a child in an open adoption situation must find adoptive parents on her own without assistance from the government. Unlike closed adoptions where neither party in the adoptions process knows the identity of the other, an open adoption allows the adoptive family to have continued contact with the birth family and vice versa. The degree of openness is determined between the adoptive family and the birth parents, always considering the needs of the child.

The NWT does not have a registry of adoptive parents for private or open adoptions. For closed adoptions, yes, but not for private adoptions. A registry for private adoptions would allow the birthmother or the birth family to access a list of prospective parents for her child, to meet and select the people who will become the child's adoptive parents, and as the child grows up the birth parent can keep in contact with the child and share in his or her life.

NWT legislation allows for private adoptions, but does not provide for a registry of willing adoptive parents to facilitate the process. Finding parents or finding a child is left to either the birth family or the adoptive family. This means that for a successful private adoption these two sets of people probably know each other or know someone common to each of them; kind of a hit and miss situation.

In other parts of Canada birth parents can access adoption registries and adoption agencies that will help them choose an adoptive family and allow them to maintain contact with their child after the adoptions process is complete. So what happens here when the birth parent doesn't know of a family who wishes to adopt privately? Where does the

child go? In most cases they end up in provinces that do have private adoption registries only because the NWT does not.

A fairly simple amendment to the Adoption Act or the regulations would fix this problem. There is a provision for a registry in the act already. And if we expand the registry to include parents willing to enter into private adoptions, the problem is solved.

We need to keep our northern children in the North, not send them south. As a government we should be doing everything possible to enable northern adoptions of northern born children, whether they are closed or private adoptions. Let's make that legislative change and keep our kids at home.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING FOR TEACHERS IN THE SAHTU

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Teachers in the Sahtu are very important to our communities. From our child's first day of school through graduation, teachers are there to instruct and encourage their students. I am pleased that many of our students are able to finish high school in their home communities. This is possible only because we have qualified and dedicated staff.

It also helps when staff members continue from one year to the next because it provides stability in schools. As well, more experienced teachers can be more effective.

Teachers consider the quality of their housing when making decisions about staying or leaving. In the past teachers were assured of government housing. However, the government policy on housing changed and the government no longer provides staff housing for its employees. All of the stakeholders in education, including the TTA and the division school councils remain concerned that the lack of good, affordable housing makes it difficult to attract and retain teachers.

The budget of the NWT Housing Corporation shows there's \$1.5 million needed to increase the number of rental units available for essential service personnel like teachers and nurses who are working in smaller NWT communities. There are only a handful of rental units available in Tulita, Deline, and Fort Good Hope, not enough to provide the housing that teachers need. I hope the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation has practical plans for this funding so units can be constructed this summer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTEREST-FREE HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR LOANS IN THE YUKON

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Northwest Territories people struggle with the high cost of housing and we as a government need to help find solutions. Our government needs to make a difference for our people.

A constituent suggested to me that I look into programs that are available in the Yukon Territory and I have had the opportunity to do that. The Yukon Housing Corporation found creative solutions for home repair programs, energy efficiency programs, and started a Green Home Initiative that should inspire us as a Territory and as a government to think likewise.

The Yukon has a Home Repair Program that provides loans up to \$35,000 to homeowners for home improvement items such as structural, electrical, plumbing, heating systems, fire safety, overcrowding, energy efficiency or accessibility. The loan has to be paid back in 12 years and is interest free. There is an extension for this program: if the repair project exceeds \$35,000 additional financing is also available, but interest would apply to that portion.

The Yukon government takes a comprehensive approach to its Home Repair Program. For example, the home repair funding amount for homeowners who are disabled is \$15,000 higher. This acknowledges that repairs that improve accessibility within an existing home are expensive and the government also wanted to support disabled people to stay longer in their homes. There are other programs: an Upgrade and Emergency Repair Program for owners of mobile homes, a Rental Suite Program, a Rental Unit Rehab Program, and a Residential Energy Management Program.

The GNWT should learn from this forward-thinking approach. Offering similar home improvement loans would allow people to do upgrades that they otherwise probably could not afford. They will pay back the loan and, in the meantime, the GNWT has won on all levels. Households will conserve energy, reduce their environmental impacts, and save money on their energy bills.

A comprehensive GNWT home improvement program would also act as a stimulus for our northern economy, providing trade training and other employment opportunities. Because it will make housing more affordable, it will encourage

people to stay in the North. It is time that our government thinks about innovative and creative ways to deal with the housing issues that challenge our residents and later today I will have questions for the Minister of Housing.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Michael McLeod.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND
FRIENDS OF JOE MERCREDI

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Monday we were all saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Joe Mercredi, a resident of Enterprise and a strong advocate of Metis rights. Today his family and friends will gather in Fort Smith at the St. Joseph's Cathedral to say good bye to Joe, or the Metis Prince as he was better known to many of us.

Mr. Mercredi was born in Fond-du-Lac, Saskatchewan, into a family of 17 children. He was the son of Louis Mercredi of Fort Smith and Mary Waguan-Powder who was from Fort Chipewyan. After living for a period of time in Fond-du-Lac they all moved back to Fort Smith when Joe was still a very young child and he raised a family there.

Joe was educated at the first federal high school in Fort Smith where he first realized his writing skills and abilities after being encouraged by his favourite teacher, Sister Sarasin.

In 1969, while living in Ottawa, Joe met his wife Amy. They were married on September 9, 1972, in St. Albert, Alberta. After many years of travelling and serving for a period of time in the Armed Forces, he eventually settled in Fort Simpson and became the owner and editor of the Mackenzie Times, which he published for over 25 years. Along with their two children, Malinda and James, Amy and Joe fostered many children in the community of Fort Simpson. They also home boarded many children from outlying communities, like Trout Lake, who had to leave home to attend school in Fort Simpson.

Joe was a Metis and this was his role in life. He, along with Harry Daniels, Dave McNabb, and others, founded the Metis Association of the NWT, which later evolved to become the Metis Nation of the Northwest Territories. He worked as the vice-president of the local Metis Nation and other territorial and federal Metis organizations. He was an advocate for justice, a strong supporter of youth, and also an advocate for aboriginal veterans. He was an avid sports fan and he would fundraise all year long to represent the Northwest Territories at the annual Grey Cup parade.

I had the chance to visit Joe a couple days before Christmas this past year and had the chance to listen to him talk about the many projects that he wanted to get done over the next while. He was working on a book about his experiences at residential schools. He was advocating to rename the Hay River Airport to honour the memory of Constable Christopher Worden. He was also very busy lobbying for aboriginal veterans' funding to build a monument to permanently recognize aboriginal soldiers.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: He was very busy lobbying for aboriginal veterans' funding to build a monument to recognize the aboriginal soldiers across the Territories and he was already talking about attending next year's Grey Cup.

Joe was a great entertainer and certainly could fill a room with his presence. He loved to sing and dance. The song "Blueberry Hill" was his favourite and will be played for him for one last time today at his service.

I have many fond memories of Joe. Over the years Joe offered me many words of encouragement. He certainly wasn't one to keep his opinion to himself and never shied away from a good fight. He had a very strong presence in our communities and across the North. He was a character with many antics that we won't forget for a long time and we certainly will miss him.

He is survived by his wife, Amy, his son, James, his granddaughter, Xaye, his daughter, Melinda and Mike St. Armour, grandson, Karl, and granddaughters, Kathleen and Gina. On behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories and the Deh Cho I rise today to offer my condolences to Joe's family and his friends.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DENE HAND GAMES TOURNAMENT
IN BEHCHOKO

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Statement delivered in aboriginal language and then in English.]

This past weekend the community of Behchoko was the place to be. The community held the biggest aboriginal traditional hand game tournament ever. The population of the community almost doubled. There were over 30 teams from

across the vast Northwest Territories. There were people from all walks of life that came to take part in this eventful tournament from as far south as northern Alberta and as far north as the Sahtu region. This is a time to rejoice, make new friendships, reconnect or rekindle the friendship, and simply be a model nation of people, the community, and the event.

Especially impressive was the number of youth actively engaged in this traditional event, both as players and spectators. There was an overall sense of excitement and joy, a sense of belonging and connectivity. We need more of these kind of gatherings that strengthen and rekindle our traditions that will help the young generation to recognize who they are.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of people here from the teaching and learning centre, the coordinators of the communities. If I could just highlight some of the names that are here with us: Fanny Swartzentruber, Deh Cho; Betty Chinna, Sahtu; Albertine Ayha, Sahtu; Liz Hansen, Beaufort-Delta; Edward Wright, Beaufort-Delta; Barb Memogana, Beaufort-Delta; Rosa Mantla, Tlicho; Shannon Payne, Yellowknife; Brent Kaulbach, South Slave; Gladys Norwegian, ECE; and those I may have missed, welcome to the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I'd like to recognize two constituents, or people that reside in Fort McPherson and might live elsewhere, but I'd like to recognize Liz Wright and Edward Wright from Fort McPherson.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'd like to recognize Mr. Brent Kaulbach, who is a resident of Fort Smith and the Thebacha constituency. Welcome to the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'd like to welcome Ms. Candy Brown of Fort Simpson to the gallery, as well as to mention Fanny Swartzentruber and welcome her, as well as Ms. Gladys Norwegian, whose home is in Nahendeh.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Premier Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: It is a pleasure to recognize in the gallery someone down from Inuvik as well: Ms. Rosemary Kirby as well as Val Robertson and, again, Ms. Hansen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: I'd like to recognize two constituents: Mrs. Chinna from Radilih Koe, and Mrs. Albertine Ayah from Deline; two of the best in their language in the Sahtu. Welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: I'd like to welcome today in the House Ms. Rosemary Kirby from Inuvik and Ms. Barb Memogana from Ulukhaktok.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: It's my pleasure today to recognize one of our hardworking Pages. Ms. Victoria Brenton from St. Pat's is working with us today and has been for the last couple of weeks. Welcome and thanks for all the hard work that you guys do.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. I'd also like to recognize a constituent of mine, Ron Courtoreille, in the gallery. And if we've missed anyone, welcome to the gallery. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in here.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 235-16(3): PROPERTY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about the need for a disclosure statement provided through the

assistance of the Department of MACA. It's about consumer protection for homeowners when they go to buy a home. My question to the Minister of MACA would be, would he be willing to work on a disclosure statement form in cooperation with our real estate agencies out there, association board, as well as our home inspection companies out there that could help provide better protection for our northern families when they go out to buy that home?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no formal disclosure required. I see the Member's point. Normally it's a process that's worked out between the buyer and the seller. Usually they have a contractor go in and do an inspection report before the purchase. So we'd be able to...We can work on something with the Member to try and see where we can go with this issue.

MR. HAWKINS: I'll take that as a clear and firm commitment that something will be worked on. It's good to hear that. Does the Minister of MACA think he can involve the Real Estate Board as well as, of course, there are several home inspectors out there, to make sure that it's a comprehensive form? It might not be mandatory at this stage, but it's certainly a process that we can bring in to help protect our northern homeowners when families are trying to make that big purchase.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As I stated before, there is a process out there and the process is usually worked out between the buyer and the seller. That should be the protection, especially if they go through a third party to do the inspection. If there is a concern out in the public that this is something that needs to be looked into and we hear from other people that are involved in the industry, then I'm sure it's something that we'll have to have a look at.

MR. HAWKINS: I think I heard the anti-commitment in that response. First it was we'll look into it and now I'm not sure. He sounded like we'll look into it if we hear a concern. I just want to make sure that if the Minister did in his first response say, yes, we'll look at this, that they'll involve those agencies I highlighted. Would he take that into consideration? And I can certainly provide representatives about those agencies if his department would be willing.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Okay. I'll go back to square one. Like I said, if it's a concern out there, then it's something that we will have to seriously

look at. If it involved members of the industry, then we will involve the members of the industry as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 236-16(3):
ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES MONTH

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of ECE some questions. Yesterday he kicked off Aboriginal Languages Month here in the Northwest Territories. I was just curious about some of the activities that his department may be planning for the regions and our communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Certainly there is a lot of work ahead of us in our department, just on the strategies I talked about yesterday, with respect to our language development and also identifying the education gap within the schools. Certainly there will be more consultation with the communities, with the agencies, with the aboriginal governments, and with the educators as well. Not only that, we are reaching out to the communities to deliver the Teacher Education Program and also Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructors Program in the communities. We've done that in Behchoko as a pilot project. Now we're doing it in Beaufort-Delta this fall. We will be reaching out to other regions to maximize our opportunities in the regions.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'm glad that he's piloting a project. Is that something that he's looking to implement into our smaller communities this coming fall? As well, another key aspect about developing our language, of course it begins in the schools, but also it begins for the adult population. Is there a strategy there as well to help those that want to learn at home and the adult learners there?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly this will be part of the discussion during our consultation process involving those individuals who are willing to learn another language or even their mother tongue language. For those who lost their language in the past, certainly that will be one of the drives we need to work with. With this particular pilot project that I've referred to, obviously we want to produce more of aboriginal language speaking teachers, so that's our prime focus reaching out to the communities. That's our prime target to achieve that dream of producing more aboriginal teachers.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I certainly agree with that and this side of the House certainly concurs with that. Is that something that the Minister foresees developing for this coming fall? I know that the need to expose our language and continue to teach it in the small communities can be done right away. What is the strategy to continue developing our aboriginal Teacher Education Program?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I did highlight the delivery of the Teacher Education Program and also Aboriginal Language Instructors Program into the communities. Beaufort-Delta will be a prime example slated for this fall. Those communities, those regions that are interested in pursuing or delivering those programs into their regions will certainly be interested in sitting down and talking about in their respective regions. Because that's part of our long-term plan to deliver those programs into the communities. Not everybody is interested in leaving the community to get trained or to be qualified. I think this is one proactive approach where we're going out to the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I kind of like the idea that he's reaching out to the communities. I'd like to ask the Minister to continue the exposure right to the community leaderships and say, look, we're going ahead with our strategy and those who are interested to provide contact information. I know that each region is different there.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The Member is right; I have to respect each region's wishes. Each region is quite unique. It's different in various ways. Certainly this has been brought up by the Dene Nation when I met with them last week. I did present to them that this is a part of the strategy of pilot projects that we're doing. They are very keen on working with us as well. I'll continue to work with the communities, the leaders on a moving-forward basis on making it even stronger in the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 237-16(3):
ADOPTION ACT AND NEED FOR OPEN
OR PRIVATE ADOPTION REGISTRY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement spoke to a missing piece in the Adoption Act. I want to give a bit of background. I had a constituent approach me and mention that when they went to the NWT Adoption Commissioner to find out if there were any parents interested in private adoptions, because their family did not know of any, there was, in her words,

absolutely no offer of assistance to help them enter into a private adoption. So to me it's the job of Health and Social Services to assist people in this particular situation. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services why in this case there was no help for this particular individual.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our legislation in the Territories enables the department to support adoptive parents who want to adopt children. The department is directly involved. I think what the Member is asking is that there is no registry system where the general public could sign their name up if they are interested in adopting and the families are matched with children. That sort of system is not available because by practice we have accommodated private knowledge. Usually with adopted families, they usually find families who want to adopt. So a lot of this work is done and the department is involved in there and helping, but it's done on a more informal basis and not by legislation.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for those remarks. I understand that the act does enable. I appreciate that the act enables. But the act doesn't enable all the way. The Minister spoke about past practice and that private adoptions are done now basically where people know somebody or people know a child or people know parents. That doesn't help anybody who does not know a parent who is willing to adopt. That doesn't help the parents who are looking for a child and don't know of a child who needs adoption. So I'd like to ask the Minister, other than the fact that we kind of go on past practice, why do we not have a registry for private adoptions?

HON. SANDY LEE: The fact is the adoptions are, even in other jurisdictions, there are no open, private adoptions, that I think the Member is thinking of, that government is involved. We want to make sure that children being adopted are, there are no profits being made in adopting children and that families, whoever wants to adopt babies, their families are studied and there are home studies done to make sure that they are suitable for adoption. Even in other jurisdictions where private adoption is allowed, it's not entirely private and open. They are done through licensed agencies and the government licenses them. They are given that power to do private matching by legislation. So I think we're just talking about different ways of doing things. We in the North have a system in place in an informal manner where there are children that need to be adopted or that are offered adoption and the communications are done in an informal way. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister. She has pretty much said that, no, there is nothing out there anywhere else in the country. I have to disagree. Perhaps the Minister ought to look at the situation in Ontario where this particular birthmother and child found a home and found willing parents who have let them stay as part of their family. They visit regularly once or twice a year. The grandparents of the child are also involved in the raising of this child. It doesn't wash, to me, that, because we do it this way, that is the way it should stay. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not she is open to changing our legislation or maybe regulations so that it will allow people who do not have the opportunity to know of a baby or parents who are looking for such a situation. Will the Minister consider making a change so that people who don't have that connection can find one? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Ontario legislation that is what I was thinking of. It is not completely open and lawless or without rules. The Ontario government has legislation. It licenses agencies to be able to adopt children. We just do it differently in that we have an informal system. In our system, the personal adoption process is possible. It is just that you hire a lawyer to do this, and same with Ontario. They have a Children's Aid Society that connects families to children who are up for adoption or open for adoption, but still there is all the legal process that has to be gone through. I think we could look to see if we could make our process better. I am always open to do that, but I don't think one system is necessarily better than the other. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to reiterate that if there is no opportunity for me as a birthmother to find a willing adoptive parent for my child, how am I supposed to keep that child in the North? The whole point that I am trying to make here is not that I want things to be lawless. I do want homes to be vetted. I do want people to go through a lawyer. That is what happens in Ontario, but it allows the birth parent or the birthmother to stay in contact with that child throughout their life. That cannot happen here if there is no registry for me to go and find people who are willing to do it. I would ask the Minister if she would reconsider and look at the possibility of expanding our registry to include parents who are willing to go for open adoptions as well as closed. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, yes, I would be willing to look at this. I have to advise the Member that most of our adoptions are done in custom adoption, there are very few private adoptions, so we have to look at the possibility of setting legislation to set up a private agency. That is

something we could look into, but the numbers so far have not warranted that.

I don't understand the Member's suggestion that not having this process is sending our children south, because that is not the case. In Ontario, you have to be an Ontario resident to adopt an Ontario baby.

Mr. Speaker, from my understanding, we have children that could be helped by finding adoptive parents. I think I will look to see how we could improve that system. Also we have an open system in that, since 1998, with the legislative changes, birth parents could opt out to have their information released when their adopted baby turns age of majority. That child could also do that as of 1998. We have an open adoption process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 238-16(3):
ANIMAL RIGHTS LEGISLATION IN THE NWT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice. Yesterday charges were stayed against a man from Behchoko in relation to an incident last fall where 34 dogs had to be euthanized in the community of Behchoko. It has a lot of people in the North and around the country scratching their head, trying to understand how the Crown thought they were unlikely to get a conviction in this case. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, what is his department doing to try to get the Northwest Territories new legislation as it pertains to animal protection and cruelty. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Certainly this has been an issue that has been brought to our attention. As the Department of Justice and also the Government of the Northwest Territories, we are following it through with what has been said. I will continue to work with Municipal and Community Affairs and Environment and Natural Resources. MACA specifically has a Dog Act and ENR has a responsibility for wildlife policies and legislation. It is all preliminary right now, but my Department of Justice is doing much of the research on animal welfare legislation across Canada and other jurisdictions. We continue to do more work in that area. We are looking forward to hearing some input from the general public as well. There will be lots of consultation on this particular legislation because it is broad for Northwest Territories as a whole. Mahsi.

MR. RAMSAY: I would like to thank the Minister for that. I can understand and appreciate he has to work with his colleagues on that. I would like to ask the Minister, though, when might the government have a game plan as it pertains to new legislation and be able to bring something before the standing committee, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, it is all preliminary. This is all new legislation. Before it comes into play, we need to consult with the standing committee and also the general public. I also need to work closely with the two departments that will have some impacts and also seeking their input, as well, into the legislation. During the consultation process, it could be in the fall of this year. We will do what we can if we need to fast-track it. We are in the process of doing that. We are doing a lot of research from other jurisdictions as well, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I don't think the Minister and the government have to look too far. I made reference in my Member's statement to the Yukon experience. They have gone through something similar just two years ago, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank the Minister for that. Again, I would like to just get some reassurance from the Minister that this is...How far up the priority is this, Mr. Speaker? I would like to think that given the national and international publicity a case like this draws, something like this is given high priority by this government. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member. This is one of the highest priorities for the Government of the Northwest Territories. It is an issue that was brought to our attention. Just recently, since we have heard from the general public, there is a working group that has been formed. As I indicated, there are Municipal and Community Affairs, Environment and Natural Resources and our department, the Department of Justice, to deal with animal welfare legislation. Again, it is a broader issue. Yes, we are fully aware of the Yukon legislation. We will continue to work with our neighbouring Yukon. Nunavut, on the other hand, does not have legislation as of yet but we are only two jurisdictions so we will continue to seek out more input from neighbouring legislation. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 239-16(3):
HOUSING FOR TEACHERS IN THE SAHTU

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked about the teachers' housing in the Sahtu. I want to ask the Minister of the Housing Corporation if the staff is working with the education divisional boards, the communities and in the Sahtu in terms of fighting for much needed adequate teachers' housing. Some of the teachers that are living in these units are overcrowded because of the lack of housing. If the Minister can elaborate if there are any types of discussion going on with the educational boards in the communities to provide housing for the teachers.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, that is a very specific situation. I don't have any information as to that. I would have to commit to going to the regional office to find out what is actually happening in the area that the Member is referencing and get back to him. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister then tell me what the Housing Corporation did last year in terms of improving the housing situation for the Sahtu teachers?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I do believe there was some assistance provided to the teachers in the Sahtu, more specifically Tulita. I am not familiar with the terms. We are currently not in a position to provide the housing for staff. That is a program that is being worked on right now. I believe there was a temporary measure put in place. I would have to commit to finding out the details and getting back to the Member once again. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister in terms of going forward in terms of the new funding arrangements with the federal government. Are there plans in place? Can the Minister tell me if there are plans in place for 2009-10 budget in terms of seeing if units can be put in the Sahtu region for essential personnel such as teachers and nurses?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Yes, I can assure the Member that we are working on trying to address the situations across the Territories in the different communities regarding the difficulty some of the communities are facing to providing accommodation for some of the professionals that are coming to the community to work. We have been working with the Department of Finance on a program titled Housing for Staff to try to work with the Development Corporation or the band councils. We still have a number of logistics to work out.

Hopefully that will be resolved fairly quickly and be able to deliver something this year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister has alluded to, working up the final details of the plans, can we expect within the Sahtu that these teachers possibly can expect some housing allocated to them through the different mechanisms of construction and financing for September's teaching year?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the allocation methodology has not been formalized yet. We are not sure we would be able to go forward by looking at dealing with the communities that seem to have the most challenges, or we would go forward with the communities that are most willing to invite us in to work with this program. As we finalize the details, as we work out some of the logistics, I would be glad to share that information with the Member. I would also be glad to hear some of the challenges that he is facing in his communities with trying to accommodate the professionals that are required to help the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 240-16(3):
HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR
PROGRAMS IN THE NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about a program in the Yukon. It is a home repair program for private homeowners. Mr. Speaker, I don't think I need to repeat all the benefits of doing something like this. Northerners are facing high cost of living. Many homes could use upgrades, which would conserve energy for the homeowner. It would be environmentally good stewardship to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There is a multitude of reasons why something like this would be a good idea. I think the number of \$35,000 is a good number, because if you look over 12 years interest-free, it works out to about \$250 per month. I think most homeowners could afford something like that. I would like that program in the Northwest Territories. Does the Minister of Housing have any money? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recently revised our program. We had

a number of different programs that were causing complications as to the many different ones that we had that fit little pockets of issues that were coming forward. We tried to change them so that there is only a small number. There are four programs now that address the many areas that are being demonstrated as needed in the communities. We do have a repair program to address issues with energy and renovations. Our program is called CARE. It is a program that we contribute up to \$90,000 to a homeowner that wants to retrofit their house for upgrades, including energy efficiency. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Is that program means tested? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The program is means tested. It is based on how much income you make, the community you live in and the cost of living in that community. It is a sliding scale of contribution, anywhere from \$10,000 to \$90,000. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: What is the total dollar amount available in that program today? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We have four programs, as I indicated. We have a total, with the new federal funding, we expect to have a total amount of \$52 million this year and also next year. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Could the Minister please consider removing the means testing of this to make it available to a wider cross-section of people in the Northwest Territories? Where is the application form? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the application forms are available in all of our Housing offices, the LHOs, our territorial regional offices. We have some here at headquarters. We would be pleased to provide some to the Members if that is their request. We would not consider removing the threshold limits on the program. However, as a result of many of the Members requesting changes to the program, we are changing the threshold limit. We are raising the thresholds and would like to present that to the standing committee as soon as possible. We expect to have that in the next couple of weeks for their review. I think we will see a more responsive, better program to accommodate the number of applications that come forward. I would be pleased to share that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 241-16(3):
REVIEW OF POWER RATES AND POWER
CORPORATION OPERATIONS

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier and in follow up to my Member's statement on the three power reviews currently underway and specifically the ATCO review, the electricity rate review and the NTPC review. Mr. Speaker, how does the Premier intend to share the information gathered through the three reviews mentioned in my Member's statement to both Regular MLAs and the public at large? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work that is undergoing is highlighted by the Member and other Members of the Assembly. One, the work that is being done under the lead of Minister Bob McLeod, under the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee. That is looking at the electricity rate regulation and subsidy program. That, as stated, will come back. A report will come back to the Minister and the coordinating committee. We will share that with Members of the Assembly. We could look at doing a report. I will have to work with that committee to see if a report will be tabled in this House. As to that work, of course that will be going around the Territory telling the many people and stakeholders and that. The NWTPC review itself, as I committed to Members, I will be coming back to them in the very near future here with the terms of reference and the make-up of the review team. We expect that, as that work goes on during summer, we will be able to report back to Members of the Assembly and, as well, look at and go through that process to see if we would table a response after we have sat down with Members. The ATCO proposal, being a business proposal, is one where I will sit down with Members, again, on the proposal itself to see if we would, in fact, go to the next stage and taking into consideration all the information that is being provided by the other work as well, and that will be fall time that we can discuss what next steps may be taken on that area. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I would like to thank the Premier for that. I look forward to seeing the results. Currently there are some other groups in the NWT that are reviewing electricity rates as well.

I just got an e-mail that the NWT Association of Communities has just established a working group to review the electricity system in the NWT. How does the Premier plan to include their findings and findings from other groups that are doing similar reviews in future decision-making on this topic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, in fact, the NWTAC is being funded by the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee in ITI is to do that review and we expect their feedback from their process that will plug into the overall work that is ongoing. Any other groups that are doing the same, we expect when this review team goes out to get input they will seek that and that will formulate our response in looking at the issues that arise from there. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The power rates and supply are significant issues and of incredible importance to the people of the Northwest Territories. As a result, any decisions affecting the sale and/or continued operation of NTPC I believe must be done by this Assembly, not just by Cabinet. How does the Premier plan to actively engage the Regular Members and include us in any decision-making that is required on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the simple fact that the Power Corporation, we're sole shareholder in the Northwest Territories. If we are going to make any decision around the sale of that and the structure of that and all the other impacts that would be felt from that, we would have to come back to the Assembly on a number of fronts, because some legislation would need to be looked at and changed. But before we even get to that phase, I'd stated to Members that I am expecting a report by the end of April. It will be an interim report that will have an initial look at that, and I'll meet with Members at that point, and I expect a further report in the fall time to look at that phase and decide at that point should we progress to the next stage. At that point of deciding if we progress to the next level, we will begin to look at things like legislation, like ownership structures, see how they work with our existing partnership arrangements in the Northwest Territories, because we're involved in hydro partnerships as well. So all of those things would have to start falling in place at the next level of discussion, but we will be sitting down with Members before that time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to hear that we are going to be engaged, so this question may not be as relevant, but I would still like to ask it. The final decision of any of these topics must be made by this Assembly. Will the Premier commit to working with all MLAs equally, not just Cabinet, in setting this government's direction on future power provisions, maintenance and supply in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, in fact, I would be pleased that we would work with Members of the Assembly to look at the possibilities that we have for our generation, for affordable, adequate, clean energy in the Northwest Territories. Not only Members of this Assembly, but I think this discussion is elevated so that the people of the Northwest Territories can voice their opinion in this case so that we don't only look at the problems, but we are looking at future possibilities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

QUESTION 242-16(3):
FUNDING FOR GRAVEL ACCESS ROAD
IN PAULATUK

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Off my Member's statement today, I was speaking about the access road in Paulatuk. Mr. Speaker, given that reliable and continuous access to gravel is critical in developing the community of Paulatuk, given the hamlet of Paulatuk is already financially stretched, will the government commit to resources and adequate funding required to operate and maintain this access road when the community's funding becomes unavailable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the funding that the community of Paulatuk receives is close to \$1 million with their capital formula funding and their gas tax funding.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oooh.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: It will be a decision of the community of Paulatuk to invest that money into their access road. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: And we're still short.

---Laughter

You know? Given that the community has identified and designed...(inaudible)...the erosion concerns of the access road, given that the cost to operate and maintain this road will only increase, will the government commit to funding the necessary studies to enhancements to ensure that they have continuous serviceability to this access road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the department could commit to going in and working

with the community to see what they may need as far as the access road goes. We would be willing to do that and meet with the community and work with them to identify how they want to go about working with this. For the upkeep on the road itself, there has been an increase in the O and M funding to all the communities, so they would be able to access this to take care of their gravel road. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Will the government do its due diligence and the follow-up in the small and remote communities to ensure that their contributions are fair and equitable and make sure they have enough money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the department is well aware of the needs of the small communities and if we are not well aware of it, we are obviously deaf. We keep getting reminded about the needs of the small communities, which is good and we take that very seriously, Mr. Speaker. We do work very hard in trying to identify as much funding for the communities as possible, because we realize the communities have a higher cost to operate, so we do work very closely with the communities to make sure that their funding is adequate for their needs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will be working really closely with you to get this extra money that is needed for the community. I can't wait for you to show me the money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson, I didn't hear a question there. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 243-16(3):
COMPLETION OF GAMES REVIEW REPORT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on my Member's statement earlier today. There are some vicious rumours out there that the report of the sport situation, the review report that is being done by Municipal and Community Affairs is being withheld until after this session of the House. I am sure that's not true, but I want to ensure that there is no politics in this, that we are really down to the business of service and delivery here. When will this long overdue report become available to the public? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those vicious rumours are untrue. The report hasn't been completed and, as Minister of MACA, I have not yet seen the report. My understanding is a draft report has been done. They are just doing the final editing and probably the middle of this month to the end of March it will be available to the stakeholders and to the general public. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: My understanding was that that draft was available in December and this is unacceptable. I have already explained how the level of frustration has built up. We've got Summer Games coming on, we've got Arctic Winter Games a year from just about today. That's unacceptable. We need this report right away. Will this Minister commit to getting this report out before the end of this session?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I will commit to finding out the status of the report and if it's ready for distribution earlier, then I will commit to having it out earlier. I am not sure where the information is coming from that it was ready in December. I am the Minister of MACA. I was unaware of it and I actually posed that question myself to the department as to the status of the report. I know that a final draft has been done and we are hoping to get it out by the end of the month. If I can get it out sooner, I will commit to the Member that I will do that. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that commitment. The Minister is new on this. I know that the more iterations there are back and forth between the government and consultants before it's finalized, the more my constituents and, of course, the sports community get pretty nervous. The main fact is that the review hasn't been done on the Arctic Winter Games. We know that there are games coming up and there doesn't seem to be identified dollars for that, although we probably will be reviewing the budget today, and more to be said on that. But can the Minister assure me that funding for games has been considered and is in the budget? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is committed to carrying on with our participation in the Arctic Winter Games and the Canada Games. I can assure the Member that funding, it hasn't been allocated, it has been identified and we're hoping that once this report is done and we realize the extent of the funding, then we will be coming forward with, more than likely, a supp. Until then we have to wait until we see the recommendations of the report and then meet with the stakeholders and come up with a plan from there. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, that's totally backwards. I'm sure the Minister knows that that's

not the way to do a budget. The supplementary appropriations are for unexpected expenditures. These are totally expected and we know what they are. This is very burdensome on those volunteer groups that are out there trying to be organized, and we understand already about the major kerfuffle that happened last year, and here we are already at the entrance to a new games and we have not dealt with that. This report is long overdue. Will the Minister get clarification out there and some idea on what funds are available or assurance that the funds will be available within time to these groups that they can at least not operate on a panic basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'm quite comfortable in standing here and assuring all the territorial sport organizations, all the athletes out there, that we will be participating in the Arctic Winter Games and the Canada Summer Games this summer. We will get our funding in time so there's not a mad rush at the end. I am willing to make that commitment, because I realize and I understand how important this is to the people out there to have some stability and some security in the fact that they will be going to these games. I'm willing to make that commitment. As I said before, once we get the report done, report will be made available immediately. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 244-16(3):
REVIEWS OF POWER RATES AND
POWER CORPORATION OPERATIONS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Roland. It is in regard to my statement. I believe one of the areas where we can possibly save a lot of money is the whole regulatory process that this government goes through in regard to rate applications, not only the Power Corporation but Northland Utilities, having to do this every four years. Also, review exactly how ourselves as legislators can direct the PUB to look at certain issues. I use as an example the whole rate increases based on the high price of fuel. The price of fuel has dropped drastically but because it's a four-year review, we're not able to intervene, and so go back, relook at your rates based on the changing circumstances such as fuel rates. I think that those types of things should be done.

Again, I'd like to ask the Premier, are you seriously going to be considering looking at the regulatory system that we presently have in regard to the PUB system and is there an opportunity for ourselves to maybe relook at that legislation or possibly change

the legislation to face the realities and reducing the cost of the whole regulatory process in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, for the record, the general rate application is every three years. In that process there are a number of rate riders that also get requested and put on, for example, fuel rate riders. There are a number of them that are existing out there. But as they meet their thresholds for the income that they've had to spend on that, those rate riders drop off. They don't stay on for the full term of that three-year period. The rates regulation subsidy review that's going on, we'll look at things like the PUB and legislation pieces, all of that will fall into how we do business in the Northwest Territories. When that report comes back in June we'll be sharing that with Members and we'll have to decide, as Members, how much we want to implement, if we should make changes to legislation. So, yes, we will be coming back to Members with that information. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I also believe that we have to get away from looking at 33 applications being filed every time we have a rate rider. I know that I've raised the issue in regard to looking at certain rates in diesel communities, a rate for the hydro communities and a rate for the gas communities. I'm wondering if that's something that's also being considered. At the end of the day we're going to have a one-rate zone, so hopefully we'll get there sooner than later. I'd like to ask the Minister, is that something that's been contemplated in regard to these reviews looking at a rate structure that basically allows for those rates for those particular communities based on the usage of those types of fuel products to basically generate that power?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, as a comment that was made in this House and even, in fact, when I met with the Power Corp Board; I told them that no stone will be left unturned when we look at the way we do business, how we operate and the environment we operate in. Some of that is set by other groups. The PUB, for example, that legislation, and the Power Corp legislation itself sets us up to operate within a confined space and time. But this work will look at all of that and we'll make suggestions. We'll have to sit down as Members of the Assembly and decide how far and how much change we want to put in place that would see benefit for the people of the Northwest Territories. That work will be done. We'll look at all those options, but this Assembly will have to make decisions as to how far we go. In fact, some of the

work that's being done, for example, the Member spoke about rates and rate zones, the work that's being done by the NWTAC does look at that nature of it as well. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, also I believe that this government should really take a close look at the franchises in the Northwest Territories. One of the largest franchises is controlled by Northland Utilities in regard to the Hay River franchise and the Yellowknife franchise. That's where the majority of the population is in the Northwest Territories. I think that at the end of the day, if you want to see power rates brought down throughout the Territories, we have to have a system that includes all of the customers in the Northwest Territories and not to operate on those...(inaudible)...

I'd like to ask the Premier, are you also looking at the possibility of looking at the franchises in the Northwest Territories in regard to the distribution of power in the Northwest Territories?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: In fact, the Power Corp Board review itself, NTPC review will look at our structures, will look at the fact that there are other agents that deliver power in the Northwest Territories. We're going to do a comparison of those structures and look at those. That will be undertaken as to how we do that. Franchise as a process, again, will be a part of that review. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I believe that this Legislature has to have some sort of a system that we can interact with the regulatory systems by way of legislative direction given by this House that they consider looking at avenues in regard to changes in regard to the social and economic realities in the Northwest Territories. Again, I use the scenario of the price of fuel. We're locked into a higher rate system because the fuel was high basically when they did the review. Now the rate for fuel has dropped drastically. As legislators, can we have the ability to look at the legislation that is in place and allow for this Legislature to have a say to direct or redirect the PUB to relook or consider social and economic changes in the Northwest Territories?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, when those reports are done and those reviews are done and we report back to Members in this Assembly, we will, as an Assembly, have to decide to what degree we want to make the changes, what legislation we're willing to change and those time frames to make power more affordable for residents of the Northwest Territories. We will look at all of those possibilities. I believe there are huge possibilities that we can make the

necessary change that will impact positively to the living environment we find our constituents living in. We're open to looking at that. It will come to this House and Members will have to decide just how far we want to make those changes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

QUESTION 245-16(3):
PLANNED ENHANCEMENTS TO HOUSING
CORPORATION COMMUNICATIONS
STRATEGIES IN TU NEDHE

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask some questions of the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation indicated that communication is one of the areas they were focusing in on in the last few months and they planned to enhance the communication strategy on April 1st. My question is, exactly what is planned to enhance the communication strategy, particularly in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is raising concerns that are similar to the concerns I had upon starting my position as the Housing Corporation Minister and this is an issue we have been working on improving. We have already done a number of things, Mr. Speaker. We've put together an information package that is available at all our district offices. The information package contains very detailed information about all our Housing Choices programs. We've also included a frequently asked questions document. We've designed and developed a brochure that's part of this information.

Mr. Speaker, we've also, this year, done something a little different. We have developed a calendar that has been put together by the Housing Corporation and it includes a number of things. It includes tips for maintenance. It includes tips on energy efficiency. It also includes important dates, deadlines that should be noted. There are a number of things that we've brought forward. We've also contacted our LHOs to ensure that they distribute this.

The only portion of it that is still not quite coordinated is starting to do more frequent trips into communities by regional staff to have workshops, to have information sessions in the communities so that people do know about what programs are

available through the Housing Corporation and they do know when the deadlines are.

Mr. Speaker, we also have already started, and will continue to do so, to put the ads in the newspapers. We've put ads in almost all our newspapers in the Northwest Territories informing people of where and when they can apply, when the deadline is. We've also done that in most of our stores and restaurants in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Many of my constituents continue to say that when the Housing Corporation staff do come to their homes and do an inspection, there is no feedback on the results. What is the policy on feedback when officers visit the homes of the people during the homeownership delivery? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I'm in a position to quote the policy of what the required feedback is, but it is our practice to keep the client informed as to their application as to the technical evaluation, whether it's a repair or it's a homeownership request. Communication is one of our priorities and we're going to continue to push that. We want to make sure everybody clearly understands the process, but also clearly understands what is happening as they move through the system. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I think a good way of ensuring staff accountability and building confidence from the residents about the NWT Housing Corporation staff is to have staff do visit reports. These reports should include a start and end time of the visit and the subject matter. Will the Minister commit to implementing some sort of tool along this line, that I would consider to be valuable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we certainly will encourage our staff and we'll look to improve the tracking system of all the applications that come forward.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member is aware, we have a lot of people, a lot of clients in his riding and other ridings that are trying to skip the system that's in place, wanting to go directly to the politicians and not have to deal with the application, not have to do the evaluation and a number of things. We do document all contact. We do try to track all the applications and we try to ensure that the applicants are fully aware of where they are in the system. We will try to improve that. We have a number of programs that we operate under and this is a real goal for us to continue to keep the clients satisfied as they deal with the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I realize that in some communities like Hay River, Smith where you're talking about 1,000 in each of those communities, this would be difficult. I'd like to ask the Minister of the possibility, again...I finished my question yesterday with this, about having staff go door to door during the application phase. Can the Minister commit to looking at this for Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution as part of the enhanced communication strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I suppose we could consider the request; however, if we're going to do a door-to-door visit in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution, we'd have to do it to all our communities in the North and that would require an awful lot more staff. I'm not sure if the Members of this House would be in a position to approve 10 or 12 more people to work for the Housing Corporation to spend all their time going house to house. Our programs are application-based. We recognize we could always improve in the area of awareness; we could always improve on getting the information out there, but at the end of the day there has to be some responsibility from the people who are wanting to engage and apply for our programs. We can't be in a position where we do everything, including the actual house-to-house visits.

There is opportunity for our technical people to go to the units. They can go in at the request of the homeowner if it's a repair or some consideration for a placement. There is opportunity for that to happen. We have technical people at all regional levels that do go into the houses and do the evaluations and provide the feedback.

Mr. Speaker, other than that, aside from trying to put a lot more people on the ground in our Corporation, which I would think is not going to be acceptable, this is really what we can do and what we can make available. We will try to enhance it at every opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 246-16(3):
FUNDING FOR POSSIBLE GRAVEL
ACCESS ROAD IN AKLAVIK

MR. KRUTKO: My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs since he's giving everything away today. I'd like to know, in regard to the Aklavik project, I know we got \$100,000 to do a study. I'm just wondering, are there other dollars that MACA can throw into the

picture so that we can also get an access road to the gravel source in Aklavik like the Member who talked about Rat Lake in Paulatuk. Is there that type of support from MACA to assist the community of Aklavik building a road to the gravel source?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: There is money that goes to the community and, as I said before, how the community decides to use that money is something that they will sit down and work out if the community considers it a priority, which I know firsthand from experience that this is a priority. MACA will assist any way we can in trying to identify dollars and work with the community to come up with a plan to make a road to their gravel source. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question has expired; however, I will allow the Member a short supplementary. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the situation in Aklavik, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has been responsible for the emergency response in regard to the floods that have taken place in Aklavik over the last number of years. In those reports they also look at how they can prevent flooding in the future. One of the things they were looking at was possibly building some sort of a berm around the outskirts of the community and increase the level of the roads so it's above the floor plain. I'd like to ask the Minister, can MACA assist the community in developing such a plan in regard to emergency measures so that they are able to respond to preventing certain floods occurring in Aklavik and also protecting the infrastructure of the community of Aklavik?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the floods and where the weaker points are and the department will work with the community in identifying, coming up with a plan on how to best protect the community and try to come up with a plan in identifying funds to put the pieces in place. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are federal dollars available for these types of emergencies and also there are ways we can prevent the impacts on our infrastructure. I would like to ask the Minister if he'd also work with his federal counterpart with regard to finding federal funds that can be used in these types of plans to implement emergency measures plans that we do respond to. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member that I will bring this up with our

federal counterpart and try to identify as much money as we can to rectify the flood situation, especially in the community of Aklavik where with a little bit of work I think they will be good for awhile. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the grander resources for our communities, I believe the Department of Public Works is responsible for overseeing that, but I know MACA also has a role to play in that. So I would like to ask the Minister, can they consider looking at a long-term granular need study for Aklavik with regard to doing this work we talked about and finding ways to implement this program as soon as possible?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I think that would be one of the roles that the new committee that they formed and can do is they can identify the gravel sources first of all and then they can look at their overall gravel needs for the next few seasons. If there is a way that the department can go into the community and work with them helping them come up with a plan to identify gravel for the next few years, then that's something that we would be willing to do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 20-16(3):
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE IMPLEMENTATION KNOWLEDGE
PLAN

TABLED DOCUMENT 21-16(3):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents entitled Government of the Northwest Territories Traditional Knowledge Policy Implementation Framework and the Department of

Environment and Natural Resources Traditional Knowledge Implementation Plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Notice of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 8:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT,
NO. 3, 2008-2009

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 5, 2009, I will move that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2008-2009, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. 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: Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy; Tabled Document 11-16(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2009-2010; Committee Report 2-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on Matters Referred to the Committee; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Historical Resources Act; Bill 3, International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act; Bill 4, Public Library Act; Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act; and Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act.

By the authority given me as Speaker by Motion 10-16(3), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Tabled Document 7-16(3), Tabled Document 11-16(3), Committee Report 2-16(3), Bills 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee today, I believe, would like to deal with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs followed by the Department of Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. We will take a short break and begin with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to the break we agreed we would begin with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. At this time I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the department if he has any opening comments. Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

I am here today to discuss the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' 2009-2010 main estimates. The department's main estimates indicate that the \$86.229 million is required for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. This is a 6.18 percent increase over last year's main estimates. Most of the required new funding is related to increased O and M funding for communities to address forced growth and a renewed focus on youth programming and services.

MACA's mandate is a diverse one dealing with a broad range of issues, including:

- political and governance development;
- capacity building;
- active living and wellness through sport and recreation;
- youth and volunteerism;
- infrastructure planning and development;
- financial management;
- essential services oversight in the area of fire prevention and responsibilities for emergency management and water quality;
- land administration, planning and property assessment; and
- consumer affairs.

MACA delivers the majority of its programs and services to community governments and also collaborates closely with other government departments and agencies, with individuals, sport and recreation organizations, youth, consumers and volunteers.

Of the \$86.229 million required for the 2009-2010 fiscal year 75 percent is provided to our key stakeholders: community governments. This represents a 9.1 percent funding increase for our partners at the community government level over last year's main estimates. The capital main estimates also provided an additional \$28 million in infrastructure contribution funding for community

governments in 2009-2010 to plan for and address their capital infrastructure priorities.

MACA's main estimates include almost \$3.5 million in new funding for strategic initiatives that support the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of healthy, educated people. A significant portion of this strategic initiative funding is allocated to youth, including doubling the annual budget for youth centres from \$250,000 to \$500,000. This funding will assist youth organizations in achieving stability in their core operations and allow staff to concentrate their fundraising and partnership activities on expanding youth programming.

Youth program funding is also increasing in 2009-2010 by approximately \$600,000 to just under \$1.4 million. MACA will use this funding to offer additional programming under the NWT Youth Corps Program, a program supporting innovative opportunities such as the Take a Kid Trapping Program. Historically, MACA has had full uptake of the existing budget. The increase in funding next fiscal year will enhance existing programs and support new pilot programs proposed by community governments and youth organizations to provide greater access to youth programming.

MACA's budget also includes one-time funding of just over \$1 million related to the 2010 Olympics. The majority of this funding is to support targeted youth initiatives, such as the Youth Ambassadors Program and the Torch Relay Program. Other funding is also available to support sport volunteers under the Skilled Sports Volunteers Program and for Inuit and Dene games demonstrations.

MACA is developing a Territory-wide Youth Development Strategy to ensure the priorities identified by youth, community residents and Members of the Legislative Assembly are addressed. The Youth Development Strategy will improve our efforts to continue successful programming and develop new tools. The increased funding in 2009-2010 will support the delivery of the Youth Development Strategy and will provide a framework for our various youth programming and services.

MACA works in partnership with other GNWT departments to deliver coordinated and integrated programs and services. MACA's mandate includes supporting, recognizing and encouraging volunteers in the Northwest Territories. I am pleased to advise that the 2009-2010 budget includes funding related to the volunteer sector. In partnership with the Financial Management Board Secretariat, MACA is hosting a Volunteer Summit on March 6th and 7th. Representatives of volunteer organizations and non-governmental organizations will attend. The results of the summit will help MACA develop an updated Volunteer Support Initiative.

Another strategic initiative -- the Healthy Choices Framework -- is also included in MACA's budget. The Healthy Choices Framework is delivered in cooperation with the departments of Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment. MACA's funding will expand the Get Active NWT Program, an initiative that supports residents to lead healthy, active lifestyles, with a particular emphasis on youth.

The 2009-2010 budget includes funding for ongoing activities, including the multi-departmental Drinking Water Quality Framework and the Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Program. The Drinking Water Quality Framework is delivered in partnership with Public Works and Services, Environment and Natural Resources and Health and Social Services. MACA provides training to water treatment plant operators, helps communities obtain water licences and provides technical support, advice and assistance. The Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Program is delivered in cooperation with the Department of Health and Social Services. This funding assists eligible community governments with training, minor capital upgrades and enhancements, and equipment.

Funding to continue Land Administration Program delivery in regional centres is also available under the Managing This Land Strategic Initiative. Regional lands staff continue to address file backlogs, clean up administrative errors and will provide operational input into the planned overhaul of land policy legislation. These activities ensure land administration issues continue to be resolved. The legislative and policy framework for land administration is outdated and no longer reflective of today's realities. Headquarters staff are conducting the analytical and policy work required to propose changes to the land administration legislation. Ongoing work is required at the regional level to ensure MACA provides support to community governments in their efforts regarding land administration.

The Maximizing Opportunities Initiative provides funding for the regulatory oversight and coordination related to the Mackenzie Gas Project. MACA anticipates an increase of approximately 6,000 to 7,000 new land use permits and other regulatory applications. There is also an ongoing need for the continued coordination of pipeline readiness activities in the department, with other departments and with community governments.

MACA's forced growth funding includes an increase in \$6.8 million for community governments to support their operations and maintenance activities and to deliver their water and sewer programs. Community governments have consistently called for greater control and autonomy over the past

several years. MACA continues to support this approach by working in partnership with the NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT. This continued collaborative approach ensures programs and services are relevant, practical and useful to community governments.

While many communities have embraced their new role, others are struggling with the transition related to greater authority. Community capacity remains a challenge for some communities. As long as capacity remains an issue for communities it will remain an issue for MACA. MACA requires the engagement of community governments, residents and organizations to address community capacity challenges. MACA relies on the NWT Association of Communities and Local Government Administrators of the NWT for their pragmatic advice and thoughtful recommendations and will continue to work with them to achieve our common goal of enhanced community capacity.

As Members are aware from the review of the main estimates of the Department of Human Resources, funding is available in 2009-2010 to support capacity building in the territorial public service and for employees of community governments. In terms of next steps, the final details on the allocation of this funding will be based on recommendations from a joint working group comprised of MACA, the Department of Human Resources, the Local Government Administrators of the NWT and the NWT Association of Communities. Staff of these organizations have had preliminary meetings to develop a work plan and terms of reference. Once preferred options are determined, we will seek the advice of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure.

This concludes my opening remarks and I look forward to discussing MACA's 2009-2010 budget with Members in further detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. At this time I would like to ask the Minister if he will be bringing in any witnesses. Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I will, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that the Minister can bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Mr. McLeod, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have with me, on my left, Mr. Jeff Polakoff, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I have also with me Ms. Laura Gareau, director of corporate affairs with Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Welcome, witnesses. General comments. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to provide some opening comments here. I've got a few comments related to the opening remarks of the Minister. Some are a repeat of last year; some are not. I'll go through them as I notice them in the Minister's remarks.

The first one that crops up is his statement that there's a renewed focus on youth programming and service. I agree with that. My concern in looking at the budget is that it seems as though, it's hard to say, but to me it looks as though the funding for youth programs is coming from about five different pots of money. I have a concern about the coordination of the programs and services for youth. When we have specific programs and funding is being applied for under a specific program, I'm not so sure that's the best way to focus our dollars and to achieve what our strategic initiatives and/or our goals and objectives as an Assembly are trying to achieve. I just express a concern in regards to coordination. I'll have some questions when we get to a couple sections of the budget.

I am particularly concerned about the amount of money that we're spending on the Olympics. I mentioned that when we did the ITI budget. Together between these two departments it's, give or take, \$2.5 million. I think that's too much money. I said to ITI and I'll say it again here for MACA, I think we should have a presence at the Olympics but I don't think we should be spending \$2.5 million in order to have a presence. One of the facets of this Olympic participation which I am adamantly opposed to is this Skilled Sports Volunteer Program. As a sport volunteer myself and as somebody who has worked at various and sundry games, I think it's an extremely valuable experience, but I'm having a really difficult time that this government is going to spend dollars on sending people from Yellowknife to Vancouver so they can volunteer as a whatever, a scorekeeper at the games in Vancouver. That to me is not a good use of our funds. I feel strongly that particular part of the Olympic program or Olympic funding should be removed.

I'm pleased to see that there's a reference to developing a Territory-wide Youth Development Strategy. I will be looking forward to what that

strategy is. It may go towards my concern about various and sundry pots of money for youth programs. If there's a development strategy, maybe that money could all be pulled together into one area so that it can be targeted to certain things.

The Minister mentioned an updated volunteer support initiative and although I'm appreciative of the Volunteer Summit, which is upcoming this weekend, I am concerned that we are going backwards as a government in terms of volunteers. We did have an organization, Volunteer NWT, which in my mind did good work. I know it was funded mostly through federal dollars and when the federal dollars went away, so did Volunteer NWT. I don't get a sense that this government is putting the emphasis on volunteers that it should. I know that means there's money involved, but I think that we need to be a little more on the ground with our actions in terms of volunteers. It's all well and good to have a summit and to have a Volunteer Support Initiative, but what is that initiative going to do? Are we simply spending money to come up with another document? I'm concerned about that.

I agree with the Healthy Choices Framework and I think that's one initiative that is a good thing. It's addressed by other departments as well: Health and Social Services and ECE. I think that doing programming in conjunction with these three departments together is a good way to go. I am a little concerned how MACA is putting this particular program on the ground and I'll be asking some questions when we get to that point.

As I've said for other departments and I said last year, I have a concern with the amount of money that we're spending for the Mackenzie Gas Project and our need to be ready for this project. It hasn't yet been approved and yet we are spending I don't know how many dollars. We're anticipating 6,000 or 7,000 new land use permits and other regulatory applications. I have two questions there. Firstly, why are these land use permits and regulatory applications going through MACA, which by its title is Municipal and Community Affairs? And secondly, I really doubt, I would like to know from the Minister, are we really going to be processing 7,000 new applications in the 2009-2010 budget year? I have my doubts.

I'm pleased to see that MACA is recognizing that community capacity remains a problem for certain communities, particularly with skills for their employees and the capacity to take on the large infrastructure projects, which they're going to have the money to do and to do them well. I'm glad to see that MACA knows it's a problem still. The words say that MACA, that it will still be an issue for MACA as time goes forward and I'm extremely pleased that the Department of Human Resources is working to try and develop some programs that

will assist communities to increase their HR capacity.

Lastly, although it is not mentioned in here and it is a bit notable by its absence, but I have a concern for funding for games, Arctic Winter Games, Canada Summer Games, Canada Winter Games, Western Canada Games, all those games to which we participate. There is no reference to it here, but I am concerned about the funding for these games as we go forward. Who is going to administer the trials and the selection of participants at these games? Who is going to be looking after looking after the kids while they are at these games? There needs to be multi-year funding and the funding needs to be ongoing. I don't see it referenced in the budget. That concerns me. I will be asking some questions when we get to that. That is all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Next on my list I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's opening remarks and the opportunity to respond here. As I am doing for most departments, I notice that there is a 6 percent increase. It is always nice when departments come in sort of flat on that end of things. The 9.1 percent funding increase for community partners, I am just thinking of the New Deal and so on, how we have really shifted a lot to the community governments and that, of course, can be seen in two ways. One is a devolution of responsibility and stuff but the other is an offloading of responsibility. There is a delicate balance there, of course. We have chosen to do this all in one fell swoop. As I will mention later with capacity building and so on, there are some challenges for that approach. We are doing that. I am concerned that some of the challenges we just are addressing through cost and flow of more and more dollars. That is not a real situation in the long term. A 9.1 percent funding increase for our partners here and an additional \$28 million in infrastructure and perhaps that is not new to this year and probably needs more perspective on that. That ultimately is not something we could sustain.

I also appreciate, however, the additional programs and expansion of programs for youth. This has been highlighted by the Members of the House quite a bit in our last 16 months. It is very good to see the department responding here and in many different ways. My colleague Ms. Bisaro has mentioned the coordination. I agree with that point. I do like the development of the territorial-wide Youth Development Strategy. I look forward to participating in review of that and development of that as the Minister has indicated.

On the volunteer sector, again, I am nervous when we say the 2009-10 budget includes funding related

to the volunteer sector. That doesn't really tell me much. It could be \$10. Last time it just about was. I am looking for more than that. It doesn't speak to the amount and it doesn't speak to where it will go and so on. I'm sure that is going to come out of the summit, but we have also long called for an increase in funding to the volunteer sector. Those are the words I am looking for.

The Get Active NWT Program, I really think the Healthy Choices and so on, lots of really good work going there. I am very happy to see the cross-departmental fertilization and cooperation and so on happening there. All kudos. I think we have a real opportunity with giving a renewed outdoor focus to a lot of these programs. We seem to be stuck indoors for a lot of these things. I know many folks here grew up with more an outdoor orientation and stuff. I think it does pay dividends and can address a lot of our goals that are across departments; not just in terms of health and physical health and so on, but in terms of traditional knowledge and awareness of the environment and so on.

Water issues are a focus of this department. I appreciate that. I understand the focus on drinking water. We are still lacking in the National Water Strategy. We don't have national regulations or the support, so we have to bear the weight here. It is always a bit of a bug there that we still don't have a policy on bottled water. I have been to lots of MACA meetings where there is bottled water there. Of course, the more we go down that road, the less people are going to worry about local sources of drinking water and the more expense we are exposing ourselves to. This bottled water is totally ridiculous and is more costly than fuel. It tells me a lot about how much wastage there is in the North and financial resources when I see the amount of money being poured into bottled water from Montreal shipped up by plane to remote communities. There are some real opportunities there.

I appreciate, also, the planned overhaul of the land policy and legislation. I wonder if this is related to the land use framework discussion that ENR is leading -- and, of course, the Commissioner's land - - is it the Lands Act that I think we have been dealing with the department a bit and hopefully make some progress on. So it is good to see that work going ahead.

I am still sceptical about the 6,000 to 7,000 new land use permits. We have been hearing about that for a couple of years. I just flipped through my Globe and Mail on Saturday, as many people might have or their National Post, and saw gas is about \$4 now down from \$11.50 for a million BTUs, whatever the standard is. I don't know how much things are going to be rushing ahead on that front.

The \$6.8 million additional for communities to support their O and M activities, water and sewage being the largest expenses, again, I've been harping a little bit about that. It is time we dealt with the cost in a real way. It is sort of like our electricity review. We are continually committing ourselves, as my view of the NTPC is, to very expensive futures, by dedicating our systems and equipment to fossil fuel. It is sort of the same with water and sewage. We are saddled with these for life. We need to respond in ways and deal with the cost in the long-term sense. I think there are some real opportunities there. They are not easy ones, but I am hoping that the department is seeking some innovative ways of dealing with that. I know CMHC is working on things like that too. It is not totally off the shelf stuff, but I am hoping we might find that sort of thing in some of the northern European small communities that would be useful in our communities.

Community capacity remains a challenge. I know everybody that works in some of our small remote communities certainly find that. I think there are some opportunities on that with the New Deal again, the community energy plans, the capital plans and so on for some new ways of thinking. But, also, I am wondering if there are other approaches like can we bring people in from the community to work in the regional centres for a year, sort of a secondment and whatnot, other things than just the short courses. Maybe the department is thinking about those things, but I know it is one of the real challenges out there. I know this department is working on it. I am glad to see that.

I didn't see any reference to the games funding, but I am sure we will have a discussion about that. The Minister is clearly committed to clarifying that situation. That is it, Mr. Chairman. I will leave it at that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Next on my list I have Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the issues I, too, wish to raise have already been covered so I will keep the rhetoric down to a minimum, only in the sense of facilitating moving through the process. I have brought up many times that I think the School of Community Government should move over to the Department of Education. I would certainly like to hear some of the senior management's thoughts in that regard. The issue I have is education should be in our Aurora College. I think that is where it should be rather than sprinkled out. I fully respect and understand the product they offer there. I would further say that it is a good product that they offer there, but ultimately the issue I have is education programs should be in the niche that they belong in. That should be in the

training environment offered through Aurora College. I think that could help supplement part of the mandate Aurora College offers and, further, could be built into more community outreach. I know they do good work. I realize their work probably or primarily is 90 percent-plus focussed in on its relationship with MACA issues, but that still doesn't speak to the reality that an education program should be rolled into perhaps part of the management of what Aurora College already provides.

Mr. Chairman, infrastructure planning development, I certainly would like to hear what the Minister is planning in that area because I have brought to the table a couple of times the issue of planning in communities, getting community land transferred from Commissioner's land to community land regardless if it turns into band land or maybe we can come up with a new terminology for future self-government land. I am not sure, but it is sometimes that grey area of the land is just sitting in this sort of holding pattern and that has caused difficulties. I have raised the issue of Fort Good Hope in the past being a problem whereas the community wants to move forward on land development because they want to put houses and then Housing has a problem because Housing can't put houses that doesn't have titled land. It continues to be an issue.

Although in the Minister's opening remarks he has noted consumer affairs. I will once again reiterate my thanks for him to look into the possibility of the issue I raised, as a matter of fact today, which is to help support future homeowners on a disclosure agreement.

Mr. Chairman, like other Members, I still have concerns about the amount of money that is being appropriated and directed to the Olympic game representation. I don't think that this is the time for that type of money to send kids, whether it is kids or program staff or whatnot. I think we should be trying to figure out how to send this as mean and lean as possible and certainly not to feel guilty because the other two Territories seem to have more money than we do at this time for the fun things. I say that with some sort of sad sense because it is always nice to send as many people as possible to things when times are good, but this could be an area that I think should be re-evaluated and reconsidered.

As mentioned earlier about the funding for regulatory oversight, either whether it comes to positions or processing applications, I would prefer this in a direct sort of actual cost funding sense. What I mean by that is, rather than us fronting all the money for this advance potential work, I would rather to see it come back as a supplementary appropriation where we pay actuals. So if you actually hire the staff and come to the House and say we hired the staff, could we have the money, I

think that would be a much better process in this regard, rather than us fund you in advance and we hope you hire the staff or we hope that the Mackenzie Gas Project comes forward so they have something to do. I'd rather see the funding process in the reverse in this particular project, because I think we have been anticipating in this project since I first got elected in 2003 and it is now 2009. I am sure it is getting close, but it is miles ahead.

I will compliment you on the area of Youth Development Strategy as other Members probably have or will. As a young lad, I grew up in Fort Simpson. Believe me, there were never enough things to do. If we did not have positive influences, we found our own influences to stay busy. Although the Tom Sawyer days of when I grew up are long since past, kids are inundated with other types of things to take their attention. Some have turned out to be quite evil and other things are less productive ways. I would support anything that can be brought forward on keeping our youth sector busy and moving forward. I would hope that some of the strategy isn't just focused in on sports, although that seemed to be all I ever did as a kid. The older I get, I see the strategy also considers things like a backstop for Take a Kid Trapping. That may not necessarily facilitate a true sport in nature, and if that is the case then I would like the thinking to maybe look at artistic talents or music talents to draw out other aspects of people's lives that they could relish and enjoy.

Mr. Chairman, I think at this time that is all I'm really going to provide as opening comments. If I have a particular matter, I have had a good relationship with MACA as with this present Minister as well as the former Minister. I found that the department is quite willing to listen and consider the ideas that are brought forward. I consider that quite nice rather than showing up and negotiating a no to try to turn it around. I find the department usually starts off by saying we will take a good look at it and see what we can do. Although, as I have said in the past, I don't always expect a yes, but I do appreciate sincerely the respect that the Department of MACA has always given my ideas or suggestions; some good, some less good, but they've always given the review and I appreciate that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some issues that I think MACA should address. Most of them are in regards to the community empowerment that we supposedly thought we were going to empower the communities by devolving authorities for communities. I think MACA still has a very important role to be on the supporting side and

supporting those communities through the transition. In case of, I will use my community since the issues are coming from that angle, is that in the community of Fort McPherson, they had some legal challenges. They had a bunch of layoffs. They had basically a situation where you had a turnover of two SAOs, two financial officers. These are unforeseen events. It is not part of their ongoing budget process but, because of these events, the cost of paying these individuals and paying basically for transitional costs or trying to fill those positions, it is something that is not normal. It is one of those not normal circumstances where the communities are dealing with events that basically...one way not to pay for something that they are now having to pay for and because they have to pay for it, it is affecting the community's budget in which now they are running deficits in which now they are having to increase the water rates in our communities which is affecting the residents. For the community saying, why did we take on this responsibility? Now we are seeing the increase in our rates and, more importantly, now they are trying to deal with a deficit by way of having these situations occur in which now, basically because of circumstances, they are now in a lawsuit. I think those types of things, MACA should be the one that ensures that those things don't happen. On the other side, you guys have the people with the expertise to provide assistance to communities so that this does not happen.

The other area of concern in our communities is the effects the cuts have made by way of recreation positions in our communities. For them, recreation plays a very important role in community development, especially for the young people in our community. If you have a good recreation director and make use of your recreation facilities from the community hall to the skating rink to the curling rink to the gymnasium, it really improves the quality of life in our communities. For me, there has to be more emphasis put into community recreation development programs by way of funding. I know that they clawed back in that area. I think that for communities those things really make a difference. If anything, if you are talking about youth initiatives and whatnot, for me that is where you should start and reinstate funding to communities that are able to deal with that.

The other area is dealing with the wastewater, water delivery issues and deal with the community infrastructure and capacity issues, because our communities are basically you are handing them something by way of infrastructure that is unknown. A lot of the infrastructure in our community is aging. A lot of the facilities have to be replaced, especially communities that have two systems -- water delivery and basically a utilidor system -- and also now we hear that you are going to have to deal with

the treatment of wastewater. For me, MACA should still retain the authority over those types of infrastructure liability issues. I think communities, because of what happened in Walkerton and what has happened in other parts of Canada, that this government should retain control or ownership of those items that do have a human risk factor involved in it, especially dealing with processed water and also dealing with those types of community infrastructure. Because the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs can do a better job of getting federal infrastructure funding to replace water treatment plants or replace infrastructure by way of taking advantage of the federal infrastructure from government to government versus having the community trying to find the resources or trying to find the capacity to deal with doing the strategies or studies to illustrate how do you replace a water treatment plant or how do you upgrade your utilidor system or how do you find ways to save money in regard to your water delivery and processing facilities in our communities. To me, I think it's very critical that that component is a very high cost aspect of doing business in communities and for municipalities. It's something that they're always pulling their hair out over because of the high cost of delivering water and sewer programs in our communities.

The other area that I was hoping that this government would focus more on is the area of helping communities deal with their community energy plans. Dealing with community plans to help those communities, because you guys have the people, you guys have the resource people in the department to deal with these issues. Yet the larger centres can reach out and get a consultant or somebody to help the municipality do it. A lot of our small communities can't. I'm glad to see in your comments if you do address the issue that there are certain communities that are falling by the wayside because they do not have the capacity to do the things that we require of them to do and, more importantly, they do need help. I think that we should allow for some sort of a five-year process of transition that this department very much is responsible for.

Again, dealing with community infrastructure and infrastructure needs of communities, that's something that we should look at the process we used to have, which was a five-year, a 10-year, even a 15-year capital planning process for each community to see when you're going to have to replace a water treatment plant, when you're going to have to replace a piece of equipment, when you're going to have to find ways to finance these major capital items in the future with the resources you have.

I know that a lot of comments have been made, oh, well, communities now have the gas tax, we've

increased their funding, but in a lot of our smaller communities with small populations, the gas tax is not going to help them replace a water treatment plant or replace a major capital item for 10 or 15 million dollars. You can finance them for 20 years and they won't be able to pay that off.

I think, again, you have to realize that the financial consequences of large urban communities are better off, because the formula works better for them than a small community, say, like Tsiigehtchic or Colville Lake or those types of communities, so that they basically can see the capital layout because of per capita. Again, I do not support that idea. Again, because I represent the smaller communities it's an issue that we have to work on.

The other area that I think this government has to seriously consider is the whole area in regard to the issue that's been touched on by a few Members, is the whole area that we're spending a lot of resources on the Mackenzie Gas Project for something that's probably not going to happen in the next while. In my view, looking forward, this pipeline isn't going to be built in the next three or four years. Regardless if we make a decision tomorrow or next month or next week, that regulatory decision will have to be looked at, it will have to be reviewed and the recommendations and conditions of that have to be considered by the applicant and also by the proponents who intervene on that application. Again, I think it's something that we have to look at as a government and, more importantly, that those capital dollars could probably be spent elsewhere.

In regard to the Olympics, I, for one, feel that there has to be a cultural component to the Olympics. I know we should partake, but I think when you're looking at expending money for volunteers, I think that, again, it's something that I think I'd have to agree with Ms. Bisaro and other comments that were made about that. Again, I think it's something that we have to seriously consider.

The other areas are that I think this Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has lost focus of what their real intention was. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is an infrastructure department who is responsible for providing the infrastructure needs of communities. You're branching out too far by way of youth initiatives. You're branching out too far by way of programs. If you're going to get out of that responsibility, there were discussions about looking at a department of infrastructure -- Housing, MACA and the Department of Public Works -- and consolidate them into one infrastructure department. That's something that's been thought of in the past and I think it's something that should be considered. Again, I think it's something that this department has to look at. Again, I think that you're

taking on more and you are going to be losing focus on what your intention really is, which is to assist municipalities and communities by way of being the department that oversees the programs and services for communities and, more importantly, assists those communities to ensure that they're able to carry out those responsibilities that we've devolved to them. Or I should say downloaded to them, because it's something that I've heard since I've been here in the 13th Assembly, that community empowerment, all it was was downloading of responsibilities. You take over the programs and services but, sorry, there's no O and M, there's no money to assist you. Again, it's something that I think has to be seriously looked at. I do have issues in regard to this department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Moving on with general comments. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just a couple things with respect to the New Deal, and I'm sure others have spoken about it as well, is the capacity issues. I know that the Minister addressed those capacity issues in his opening statement. In fact, he makes it one of his goals to look at it seriously. I'm glad he is, because it is a serious issue in the communities.

During my last tour of the communities I had two of them. They are so busy trying to keep up with the programs that were devolved to them that they didn't have time to take care of the bookwork and the reporting procedures. All of that just adds to that extra workload that they have. Typically, the smaller communities are a band office. They're taking care of the needs of the First Nations people, their treaty obligations and some of the federal funding that flows through their office. At the same time, whether they know it or not, they're actually running the communities on behalf of our government. It's kind of like...It is the communities that asked for the responsibilities, it is the communities that asked, you know, we know better about where to place our priorities. Our government listened. It created the New Deal program. But at the same time, once you start devolving money straight to the communities you don't have the ability to devolve the expertise, the engineers, the specialists in terms of delivering our water services, our infrastructure planning and development. We expect all the communities to do it now, but we're still responsible. At the same time we're telling them, no, you guys do it, you wanted the responsibility.

There has to be some kind of rethinking here. There has to be a different strategy of assisting the communities just in terms of, like, building a water treatment plant. We're expecting them to front up the engineering costs, the planning costs, the land development costs, when we as a government

were able to do it with ease because we had expertise in these different areas. Now we're saying, okay, you got the money, now you take care of your own legal fees, et cetera. It does create an extra burden on them, so we have to rethink how we want to do this. I truly believe that giving them extra money may not be the correct answer. I think providing them with the community support and the training would be a lot better way to do it.

There must be a way of helping them with their capacity. I don't know; maybe the Minister can correct me, but do we still provide community development training to the staff? Do we provide financial training to the staff? Do we provide report writing training to the staff? All those things are key in the smooth operation of our small communities and they're integral to an organization. In fact, it is public dollars that we're giving them, so we've got to be responsible and accountable about how they handle it and they have the confidence to handle it too. Many of them are really scared of spending too much, so they need to know the rules, the ground rules around it to provide the services on our behalf, because we're asking them to deliver the public programs and services and to provide the good community life that's in our goals and statements. We have to provide the training and the support that is needed to deliver the programs that we've asked them to deliver.

In terms of capacity issues, that's something that I would ask the Minister to provide the training, because they're falling way behind in their reporting schedule and it creates grief later on when you ask for more money or else you ask for more programming. If they don't have the proper reports, then everything just gets slowed down. Many of these initiatives are spur of the moment and any delay, especially for the remote communities, a one-month delay in the springtime puts it a year behind because you have to wait for the ice road for the next year for some of the infrastructure initiatives that they may have.

Just in terms of recreation and in terms of the Olympics, I also concur that I like the initiative that's there for the Olympics and involving as many people as we can. I would have liked to see more involvement through other areas, but I support the plan that's there for right now. At the same time, I'd like to see as many of the smaller communities represented and exposed to the Olympics. I'd also like to see a little bit more...I read some of the programming guidelines but I wasn't too clear about it. I'd like to see more if you can give these to the community leadership, send them to the band councils, the Metis councils and let them know how we can be involved. I believe that the communities should have a bit of a say or even the say could be through the support letters from band councils or

Metis councils or hamlet and village councils, but at least that they should know that this initiative is going forward and that the time is short in order to start looking at how our communities will be represented at the Olympics.

In terms of recreation in the smaller communities, Mr. Chair, I know that a couple of my communities had difficulties in planning and getting their ice rinks ready. That's something I'd really like to plan for the next year, to better assist the communities getting their ice rinks ready. That type of little programming doesn't seem like a lot, but to the child that's in the small community with lack of facilities, that's something else to do in the evening or during the school day. I'd really like to say that better planning to come around for next season.

Some of the water infrastructure, I did a Member's statement earlier in the week about Jean Marie. I know that it's taken a long time but I'd sure like to see the water treatment plant completed this coming fiscal year. It's such a pain to have to buy your water from Hay River or particularly Fort Simpson as part of your grocery list. That shouldn't be. We should have clean, potable drinking water in all our communities that people don't have to be concerned about and they can trust and know that the water supply is something that they can trust. I urge the Minister to continue doing that.

Also, as another front-line department that involves recreation and youth, I spoke earlier to the Minister's office about summer students. I believe that their level of summer students, and I commend them on that, but I don't believe in half-time positions. I don't think it's very much money to complete from a .5 to a full-time position. I support the Minister and his ministry to do whatever he can to make it a full complement that our youth can learn and grow from this department and give them the opportunities. We talk about even our capacity building and that's how we gain our future workforce by providing them exposure there, Mr. Chair. I would certainly support any efforts of the Minister to do that, to move to full-time summer positions. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister and his staff for listening. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Moving on, I have Mr. Beaulieu next.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's opening comments. I wasn't here but I read over the notes and I like all of the areas and the mandate of the department. I think all of the different areas are important and very important to the communities.

Political and governance development is a key and I think something where there has to be a lot of activity. I believe the department is actively working

in this area, especially in the area of governance development. I think some of the communities do need a lot of support in governing their own affairs. I think capacity building, of course, that would involve the capacity building and building up the capacity of individuals working for the municipalities where a lot of the budget has been devolved through the new plan.

I think that sport and recreation, of course, goes very well to the living and wellness of the community -- youth, volunteerism. Volunteerism is not a real big item in Tu Nedhe, but certainly the fact that the youth are so far behind the rest of the youth as far as youth infrastructure and youth programming, that it's an issue for me.

Infrastructure planning and development, of course, is something that I think both communities, when they evolve into changing their status to a hamlet status in Fort Resolution and setting up some sort of corporation in Lutselk'e, then the infrastructure and so on can be transferred over to the communities; an important function there. In financial management, also another mandate of MACA, I think that is certainly an area where the communities could use some assistance in managing finances and dealing with their own ability to borrow money and then pay back the money in order to provide the much needed infrastructure in communities. I'm looking forward to seeing how these things evolve and how they affect my communities in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution.

When I visit these two communities and I discuss a lot of issues in the community and so on, it seems to me like all of the things the communities need. I'm talking about Lutselk'e needs to be drained. Why? In order to put proper application of dust suppression around the community, the community has to be drained. Why hasn't it been done already? I have no idea.

With the New Deal, I think that the communities are taking care of their own infrastructure. They need to do those things. I think that MACA has to be there to help them with engineering drawings, the plans and the financial scheme on how it could be done.

I would envision something that is actually priced out would be the chipsealing of the entire community of Fort Resolution. What I would envision would be that I wouldn't come to the government and say we need \$3 million today, but it would be good if the government could say, well, you know, three years from now, I think we could move money into Fort Resolution. One million dollars would be certainly a good down payment on that type of project. Put it into the capital plan. The community now has financial management and financial ability to borrow an additional \$2 million and then, over one season, chipseal the whole

entire community. There are only nine kilometres of road in the whole town, as an example. That could be done and then I could envision in the capital plan half a million dollars put in the capital plan four consecutive years after that where balloon payments could be made to the person that loaned the money, or not the person I guess, but the institution that loaned the money to the community and then the community would be responsible for making interest payments only in between and interest payments on \$2 million. The first year, \$1.5 million; the second year, half a million; and the third year and then a fourth year essentially with the balloon payments that could evolve through the capital plan in the GNWT. The community could actually have all the streets paved. When you think about that and something that would benefit the whole community, you think about all of the community and how it positively impacts on everything.

It is the same thing for Lutselk'e. Once you have streets that are paved, you start to see individuals starting to take a little pride. Instead of spending all their day dusting, they could actually be outside fixing up their lawns and improving their properties so that everybody has an equity stake. Like today, you can actually build a house in Lutselk'e and let's say an individual had money or an individual went through the Housing Corporation to build a house in Lutselk'e. I don't know the exact construction numbers, but I assume between \$180,000 and \$220,000 for a modest three-bedroom unit in that community. The minute you walk into that brand new unit, turn the key, walk in and try to sell it, you are going to lose \$50,000 or \$60,000 in the sale. That wouldn't happen where you have property infrastructure, where you have paved streets and you have well developed land and so on. It is well worth it.

Maybe these people never ever plan to sell their house. However, one house sale is the beginning of a market. A beginning of a market means that there is a potential for us to create homes for professionals. Creating homes for professionals means teachers and nurses will stay longer and all the better for the educational well-being and the people of those communities. There is a lot of potential there, but the community needs assistance from this department in order to get to there. I know there has been a lot of work done but there is a lot more to do.

My favourite topic is dealing with the youth. I like the idea that the community of Fort Resolution took their money, took Canada Building Fund and some of their own money through infrastructure, gas tax or capital, whatever categories of our country, I can't remember them off the top of my head. However, their intention of building a nice youth centre, spending a substantial amount of money on

building a youth centre for their youth, taking another chunk of money and building a summer swimming pool for their youth, those types of plans that come out of the community. Something of course I pushed and started talking to the youth and that about, but something that the community has stepped back and said this is something we have to do.

Lutselk'e is interested in that, in the different way. Lutselk'e wants to see a youth centre that has a cultural centre to it. The youth centre is a place where the youth can connect with the elders and the youth can learn cultural stuff from the elders. They want to have a small restaurant on their little gas, a coffee bar in the youth centre, so that is where the community will connect with the youth and so on. All of these ideas, of chipsealing the community, getting infrastructure for youth, all things that this department is maybe responsible for or maybe should be in the position to assist the communities, whether it means that the communities are going to be borrowing to do this but certainly needs some leveraging from this government. I think I'm out of time, Mr. Chairman. Sorry.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you very much, Mr. Beaulieu. I appreciate your eye on the clock. We are moving on to Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for his opening comments. MACA is a big part of the smaller communities in regards to funding. You have a really diverse and broad range of issues that you do cover. Our active living and wellness, sport and recreation, essential services that provide service to the whole community in regards to community governments and snow removal, pumping sewage, the water delivery, so many diverse aspects to what you cover.

In regards to essential services on the fire prevention, I think the responsibilities and emergency management of water quality, I think that we really have to look into that in regards to getting hamlet employees properly trained. In regards to the issue that I'm having in Sachs Harbour right now, I'm not saying it is the training, but this is the quality of water and making sure that things are following through. MACA department out of Inuvik, I guess to oversee the steps into that and making sure my people in these communities have safe drinking water.

MACA's significant portion of strategic initiative funding allocated to the youth, it is really good to see that we are giving more money to the youth. I really think youth program funding increasing an extra \$600,000, I think a portion of that money should be given to the Aboriginal Sport Circle

regarding how good a job they are doing in regards to going to the communities, running soccer clinics, what I have here. They went into Tuk. They did a sport camp now, one with archery in Ulukhaktok and in Tuk they did a soccer camp and they are doing the whole region. Now they are working on the hockey clinics right through all of the Beaufort-Delta area. I think that the Aboriginal Sport Circle is doing a really good job. I think you almost should say that Sport North should really take notice on that and take it to heart and to start trying to keep up with these guys to provide service to our youth.

Right now we are forgetting the youth again. I think these weekend tournaments...The Minister and I coached a lot of years together in the past for weekend tournaments for hockey and different sports like soccer and the youth. I know at one time that the government did supply monies to communities with the less fortunate in regards to funding and access to get out of the community. I think that is a really good issue that should be brought up again in case we do a pilot project and to be having to access monies from the smaller communities in my region. I'm not saying only in my region, but all of the Northwest Territories with no road service. I think the opportunity for kids to get out of the community to travel is a priority and giving them a chance to play sports in sporting events is just really important.

Moving on, services and funding, governments training, minor capital upgrades and enhancements, I really think that the government and your department is doing a good job, and with extra monies that they are giving to the communities this year, I hope it is not going to be just this year. I hope it is next year too, due to the financial strain that the territorial government is going through and maximizing our opportunities in providing funding to the regulatory coordination, regulated to the Mackenzie Gas Project. I think that we do have to put the money in there to make sure we are ready once we do get the approval to go ahead, hopefully sooner than later. A lot of people are relying...I know, Mr. Chairman, you are not liking that. For myself, people have to work. People have to feed their families. The pipeline is a big job opportunity for the Beaufort-Delta. Just get that pipeline up to Tuk and we will feed you. We will give you the gas.

So MACA's forced growth and the increase of \$6.8 million in community governments and supporting operations, maintenance activities, and the water and sewer programs, I know that is a real good initiative. It is really needed in our smaller communities for the biggest thing now we worry about is the decanting every year. With the access road in Tuk being built, we will be able to get it away from the shoreline -- it is so close to the ocean -- and move it up inland.

The Association of Communities of local governments working with you, I know that some of the...Mr. Van Tighem and one from my mayor from Tuk, Merven Gruben, are sitting on that, so I hear a lot of good things that you are working with them. I think I really would like to mention it again is the extra pilot project. If we could with the funding for the youth in the Beaufort-Delta and the small communities with no access road or no roads in and see if we could get extra funding for the Aboriginal Sport Circle. I really stress that because they are doing quality work in regards with the youth in the communities. Like I said, they are just doing a really good job. I think we should start supporting them a little bit more than what we have been.

That is for my opening comments. I look forward to going page by page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Committee, I don't have anybody else up for general comments. Does committee agree that that concludes our general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that we move...Sorry. Excuse me. Sorry. I was just about to cut off the Minister and not give him a chance to respond. Minister Robert McLeod, do you have a response?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just provide a few responses to some of the opening remarks that we heard. There seems to be a common theme from each Member that spoke. That indicates to us that it is something that all of the Members are sharing the same issues and the same concerns with the issues that are coming forward.

Some of the main ones that I picked up on are participation in the Olympics. There are some Members that have some concerns with the amount of money that we are spending sending kids to the Olympics and that is something that I think is value for money. It is an investment in the children, communities, especially a lot of the smaller communities. There is going to be an excellent Youth Ambassador Program. For a lot of the kids in the smaller communities, it is going to be an opportunity of a lifetime for them to go to a big event and they won't be going there just doing nothing. They will be going there. They will be put to work and the experience that they are going to gain out of it is something that I think they will be able to bring back to their communities and they could all benefit from that.

I always recall a story that I heard on the radio. I think it was last year or the year before, where a young lady was a youth ambassador for the North American Indigenous Games. She went down. She wouldn't say two words. She came back from it and she was just pumped. She was just ready to go into our community and tried to get some things going. I think this is something that will add value and I think it will allow us to develop the community and the youth in the community. This is something I'm looking forward to seeing going ahead. I can understand in this time when we are talking budget restraint, there is some concern about the amount of money, but I would just like to say that is money that, in my opinion, is well spent.

There are a lot of concerns with the community capacity and the devolving of responsibility on to the community. MACA recognizes that. We realize that this is in the early stages of the whole New Deal and there is a learning process not only for the communities, but for the department itself. MACA recognizes that and are doing what they can, working with the associations and communities and the LGANT in trying to deliver programs to have training for people that are working in the communities. I think that is something that as we go forward and the communities realize they have all the responsibility, I think they will take it and they will run with it. Speaking to some communities that have taken this and have adapted really well to it, they are liking it because of the old way of doing business is trying to get on the infrastructure plan and you had to compete against other infrastructure across the government. The way that it is working now, by giving the communities the money and the authority to decide how they want to work their infrastructure projects, then they don't have to wait in line. They are the ones that decide.

The Volunteer Summit, we are looking at having some good things come out of the Volunteer Summit. We are hoping to take a lot of the information we have from that and develop a plan to go forward and seeing what we can do with assisting volunteers across the Northwest Territories. The recreation positions, I know pretty well all the communities have recreation positions. MACA recognizes the value of these positions and they do try and do what we can to supply funding to the recreation positions.

I think as we go through the page by page, you will see a few lines in there on funding for the communities, the energy plans. I think there was some mention of some of the high cost of doing business in the community. That is something I think that not only the Department of MACA, but the government as a whole I think recognizes that we need to take a step back and look at how we do business, look at how we heat our buildings and we are in the early stages of that now. I think as we

become more and more educated as to the benefits of the energy plans, I think you will see a shift in the attitude of people. They will go towards doing what they can. It is costing a lot of money as we see the O and M money for this particular department went up because it is money that we are flowing to the communities to deal with the issues. If there are ways we can find of saving money, then that is something that we have to have a serious look at.

There's some concern with the amount of money that's been spent in the Mackenzie Gas Project. I heard it said once that if you don't do anything, you're not seen as being proactive; if you do something, you're seen as jumping the gun. I think this is one where we need to be proactive. We don't know when this whole pipeline is going to be approved, if it's approved. It's going to be a while yet. I'm assuming, because of the report that is supposedly coming out at the end of this year, that the fact that we need to be ready for the development and we need to have everything in place for when the word comes down that it's been approved, if it's approved, then we're ready to go instead of waiting for word to come down that it may be approved and then get going and then we're playing catch-up again and I don't think we want that. I think that's something that we'll have to monitor and then we're obviously waiting for the results of the Joint Review Panel and the National Energy Board hearings to see what happens out of that.

There have been a couple of comments on training. It is a priority of MACA, and I can't stress it enough that MACA realizes that we have devolved a lot of responsibility to the communities, to community governments, because basically they've asked for it. We are not, and I've heard the comment made a couple times, MACA is not devolving the responsibility to the communities and then just leaving them on their own. That is not part of our mandate at all. We realize that it's a huge responsibility for the communities, so we will do what we can until the communities have built up that capacity and they're able to make all these decisions. We will assist them any way we can. I keep trying to stress that because I want the communities and the Members to know that we do take our responsibility very seriously and we're not going to just leave the communities high and dry. We'll continue to work with them, provide expertise, provide training. There is with HR and MACA working with LGANT and NWTHC. We're coming up with a plan to educate community administrators on the financial management part of it. And that -- I think one of the Members spoke to, too -- is a huge issue, because it is a huge influx of cash and they will need to be able to manage all the money that they've been given.

I appreciate all the comments on the youth. I think it's well known that many of the Members here have spoken on youth issues. I'm pleased that MACA has been able to provide a huge increase in the funding towards the youth and youth programming. Hopefully, we'll be able to see some positive results come out of all that.

Mr. Chair, I think I've covered most of the main issues that Members were bringing up during their opening comments and I'm sure once we get to page by page we'll have more questions on each particular page, so I'll save it until then. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Does committee agree that that concludes general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Is it the wish of the committee to go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. We'll defer page 6-7 until after we've done the detail, the summary page. Start on page 6-8, information item, infrastructure investment summary. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-9, revenue summary. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-10, information, active position summary.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Page 6-13, activity summary, directorate, operations expenditure summary, \$4.479 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe this is where the funding is required for the Mackenzie Gas Project and there is an increase of three positions to deal with the increased workloads. The Minister's remarks indicated that that's to do all of these permits. I guess my question is, when is the anticipation that this extra workload is going to start? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, we don't have any of these people on board yet. We're hoping to have them in place before the end of the year. We are expecting, if you believe what the JRP is saying, some word from the JRP toward the end

of the year as to their take on the pipeline. We're hoping to have our people in place before the announcement is made so we're prepared for it. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Okay, that brings up another question, I guess. One of the things, and I mentioned it in my comments, is the anticipated 6,000 permits that need to be processed. I am having great difficulty that we're going to be processing 6,000 permits in the '09-10 fiscal year for two reasons: one, that project has not been approved yet; and, two, we're not planning to have people in place until the end of the year, which I'm presuming is the calendar year, meaning November or December of '09. I'm having a real problem with the fact that we need to budget, I think it's \$400,000 or so, for this work when it probably won't happen. If I could get clarification or an explanation of that, please. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, we are going to have to have these folks in place before any type of announcement comes down from the Mackenzie Gas Project so we can start looking at the applications. We have asked for this money in this particular budget because it would run to the end of the fiscal year, March 2010. We're anticipating by then we'll have an idea as to what's going on with the Mackenzie Gas Project and we're hoping to have the people in place to start dealing with the applications as they come forward. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I'm still having difficulty just taking this one person, one position that's going to deal with permits and regulatory whatever might happen to come across the desk. Admittedly, the people aren't there yet. Assuming that they're hired as of the 1st of April, what are they going to be doing until we start getting regulatory permits and applications coming in? I really can't see that happening until at least maybe June of 2009. I appreciate that we want to have people in place prior to the beginning of this project or the start-up of this project, but I'm just having a really hard time knowing what this permit approval person is going to be doing from whenever they're hired until the project is actually approved. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, these 6,000 to 7,000 permits are not going to be all right away. It's going to be ongoing, 6,000 to 7,000 permits probably in total. I apologize if I didn't make that quite clear. When we do bring someone on for the first part of it, until we get any indication as to where the project's going to go, they're going to be working with the communities trying to identify work that needs to be done in preparation for the pipeline. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Okay, I guess that was a bit of switch in the description of the job description for this person. If there are permits to be approved they'll do that, but prior to that they're going to be working with the communities to do what? Could you be more specific? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'll defer to Mr. Polakoff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Polakoff.

MR. POLAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The positions, once they begin, as the Minister has indicated, while they won't be undertaking the 6,000 or 7,000 permits in one year, there is a significant amount of work that the individual will need to do in preparation for undertaking the permitting. Some of the work will be working with the communities to identify what their ongoing needs are going to be in terms of receiving information, as well as preparing the system to process the permits once they've been developed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Polakoff. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: One last question. If we have \$400,000 identified for these three positions, is that for a full fiscal year expense? Is this intended for three positions starting the 1st of April of '09? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, it is, Mr. Chair. It's for three positions starting April 1, 2009, for the fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Anything further, Ms. Bisaro?

MS. BISARO: Just a comment. I'm, again, having great difficulty believing that these three people are going to have that much work to do for a project that isn't yet approved. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. No question there. I think we can move on. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering, and I've been looking for a copy of the draft report on 911. As I understand it, there are departmental staff that are part of the 911 working group. I'm just wondering which departmental staff that is. I could try to go through the city to get a draft copy of that report, but if the Minister and his staff have a draft copy, I'm wondering if they would be willing to share that with committee, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That would have to be a request to the City of Yellowknife because it is their report and the Member would have to make his request to the city.

MR. RAMSAY: I could do that and I will do that. But I'm just thinking if we have departmental staff and the GNWT is a willing participant on the 911 committee, why can't we get a copy of the draft report from the department? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We did participate in that, but the city was the major funder of this study so it is their report. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: That's fine. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just following up on Ms. Bisaro's questions about these land positions. I mean, you already have people who basically do a similar type of duty by way of lands officers in the different regions. Couldn't you just give them a little more training to basically carry this through until we actually know that there's going to be a pipeline? I don't think that any work is going to be done in this fiscal year. My view is that once the application has basically been agreed to, that there are going to be certain conditions attached to the licence that basically the proponent has to go back, look at what those recommendations are, assess the project that they're looking at, is it economically viable or not, and then they will both be asked either to make changes to their application or approve their application.

This, for me, is not going to happen April 1st. If anything, it's probably going to happen April 1st next year. I'm wondering, is it possible to have people in your operations, who are already lands people within the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, take on that extra training that's going to be required so if they ever do have an application that comes forward they have people basically ready for it. Then once a decision is made by way of the regulatory decision, at that time then you can relook at this program. It is a lot of money and I think, personally, it's something that with the situation that we're finding ourselves in, there's not really a need for those right now. Yet we can do it with the staff we already have. Have you contemplated looking at that scenario where basically you have people who are already there, give them extra duties, pay them a few more bucks, but basically don't increase the stock you have until there's actually an application or a decision on the pipeline in front of the people in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, the applications and a lot of the applications that they're going to be looking at are not all land applications. I take the Member's point that it's all kind of up in the air right now as to this whole project. You know, we're looking at April 1st and I don't...The positions won't be brought right on board. I'm not thinking they'll be brought right on board on April 1st. There will probably be a little time before they're brought on board and by then we might have some indication as to the status of the project.

As I stated a couple of times, we do want to be sure that we're in place when the word does come down and not be scrambling last minute to try and put people in place to deal with the applications that might be coming forward.

I take the Member's point and the other Member's point that it is all kind of up in the air right now and we're not sure, but we're just trying to be proactive and, hopefully, be ready when word does come down. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, we spend a lot of money in this area in regard to setting up a pipeline office. We've had dollars for intervener funding. We've had people on the ground, the so-called pipeline specialists, the oil and gas specialists in the field. Again, the question that the public is asking is what are these people doing. This process has been going on for five years and, again, we're no closer than we were then to seeing the final result of a pipeline. Again, I think that with the fiscal restraints we're under and trying to send a message to the public that we are trying to avoid expending money where we don't really have to, that in this particular case the department should seriously consider holding off the decision to develop these three positions on April 1st and seriously look at the staff you already have there. Maybe give them, like I say, give them a little more training, give them a few more workshops and tell them, okay, what's the scenario of a pipeline application for Municipal and Community Affairs, what licences are going to be processed, what's the application going to look like. I mean, all these things could be done in-house without actually having the people on the ground to look at the pipeline.

I know it's 6,000 or 7,000 applications but, in my view, I served on the regulatory boards before and it's just a matter of common sense and making decisions on the basis of what the applications are, having complete applications and moving forward with the approval process for those applications. There is no science that's involved. It's basically a question of due process. Again, I would just like to ask the Minister, would he seriously consider

holding off making these appointments until we have a better idea where this application is going.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'll say to the Member again that we're not going to rush out there right on April 1st and bring some people on board. We will have to step back and have a look at it, but it is our intent to ask for the funding for the three positions so we can hopefully have them on board before the applications start coming in. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Just for clarification. The money is there, the bodies aren't and the decisions that get the people will be made when an application is filed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Did you want to add to your question, Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO: Yes, I just wanted to clarify that once we have a decision on the pipeline where we know exactly what the decision is, then at that time the government will make the decision to either appoint these individuals or create those three positions at that time, but not to expend the money until we have a better idea of when that decision is going to be made, or at least have a decision made on the pipeline if it's go or no-go.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, what we're doing today is we're requesting approval of that money so we could have that money in place and be able to be in a position to hire the bodies once we have an indication of where the pipeline is at. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Moving on, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to follow up on the questions from Mr. Ramsay in regards to 911. I forgot I had wanted to ask some questions here as well.

If the draft report is not available to Members, can I hear from the Minister where -- since they're participating on this working group -- from a department perspective, where does the government sit in terms of 911 and the work that the City of Yellowknife is doing? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'm not quite sure if the Member is asking my opinion as to where we should go with 911.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Clarification, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose the Minister can answer that if he wants to. But I guess I would like to know what the position of this government is relative to 911. The City of Yellowknife was pursuing this project on their own for a while and then MACA stepped in and said they wanted to be a participant. So I want to know where MACA fits into 911 -- the project that the city is trying to establish -- what the policy of this government is in regards to the support for 911 that the city is trying to get going. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Our position would be if it's a benefit to people all across the Northwest Territories, then it's something that we would have to seriously look at. The bulk of the 911 service would be here in the capital and I think that's why the city took a lead on this. MACA wanted to be a part of it because we thought in some cases in some of the bigger smaller communities that there might be some interest in this service there. But the bulk of the service would be for the capital and surrounding area. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I appreciate that the bulk of the service would be here. I hate to do it, but I must remind the Minister that the bulk of the population of the Territories is here as well. If the service is put into place by the City of Yellowknife is there going to be any support from the territorial government to assist them in getting this project started? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: At this juncture, Mr. Chair, I wouldn't be able to give an accurate answer, because we're not quite sure of what's all going to be needed in being able to provide this service. I'm sure if they come forward with a proposal, then we would sit down and have a serious look at it and see if it's something, with the support of this Assembly, that we'd be able to do. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you for the answer, I think. I guess the last question I would like to ask is whether or not MACA is going to stand in the way of the city going forward on their own. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Well, if the City of Yellowknife decided that they wanted to do this on their own, then I don't think it's MACA's position to stand in their way. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you. I lied; I have another question. Does the Minister also recognize that if the city sets up this service and it then expands to other communities within the Territories that the city would have a right to charge for that service? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'm fully aware of that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Committee, we're on page 6-13. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Can the Minister point out exactly how much it's going to cost for those positions in regards to this budget for this page?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Which positions would the Member be referring to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Clarification, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: The three new lands positions, the ones we've been talking about for the last half hour.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. That was the Mackenzie Gas Project positions. Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are requesting \$400,000 for the three positions. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: So where is the \$400,000 in regards to this capital? What operation is that expenditure coming under?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Two positions are in directorate and one is in lands, so the money in the budget is reflected there.

MR. KRUTKO: In regards to the lands positions, is that anything to do with working with municipalities or communities in regards to lands being transferred? I know in your opening comments you talk about working with communities, dealing with their land administration responsibilities now by way of dealing with the applications in communities and also dealing with the land management issues for communities. Does that have anything to do with those positions for lands?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The lands administration positions would be to undertake administrative work. It's just relating to the reviewing and process of land applications. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: The question asked is, are these positions going to be doing anything to work with the communities and municipalities, dealing with the responsibilities that they have now by way of the land administration responsibilities they have in the municipalities?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, this positions would be dealing with the communities, too, and any issues that they may have as far as the Mackenzie Gas Project is concerned. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: I'll try to simplify my question. My question is, in the Minister's opening comments he made reference that they're working with municipalities to work with them to work on their land management responsibilities under the community land responsibilities, because we devolved that authority to communities by way of municipal taxes and whatnot. So I asked the question: Is that lands position -- not the two positions in the directorate, the lands position -- is there any responsibility that that position will have to work with those communities to assist them in developing their land management systems in those communities?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: And I'll simplify my answer. It's no, that they're going to be working with them on any issues relating to the Mackenzie Gas Project. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: So with that, the three positions work out to about \$125,000 per position. Is that correct?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. Once again, we're on page 6-13, activity summary, directorate, operations expenditure summary, \$4.479 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-14, activity summary, directorate, grants and contributions, grants, \$160,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): That was, for clarity, \$168,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Contributions, \$390,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Total grants and contributions, \$558,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-15, information item, directorate, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-17, activity summary, community operations, operations expenditure summary, \$3.369 million. Agreed? Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering, getting back to some of the discussion we had in the House earlier today and I know Mr. Bromley has brought this issue up, but the issue with animals and animal protection and laws surrounding animal protection, I think there's a part of me that believes the government has some kind of obligation to help communities get bylaws at the local community level to a state or to a status where, you know, they don't all have to be the same, but I think MACA has some kind of role in helping communities get animal bylaws in place in our communities so that both pets and pet owners are protected and they have some sense, peace of mind in those bylaws. Today I think it's fairly haphazard across the Territory; there's no rhyme or reason to a lot of the bylaws that exist out there. So maybe a comment from the Minister on standardization on bylaws and what help MACA may be able to provide to community leaders in getting bylaws to a state where, like I said, pet and pet owners are protected. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The NWT act, our Dog Act is very outdated. A lot of the acts that the communities have are far more advanced than ours. I think they recognize that ours had no teeth to it, so they did their own. So if we were to standardize, if we were to come up with an act...and from the correspondence that I've been receiving, I think the desire is out there to have more than just a Dog Act. I think it's called an animal welfare legislation act now or something. So I think if we toughened up the territorial government's legislation, then I think some of the communities would follow suit. Because their legislation right now, as far as the Dog Act goes, is a lot stronger than what we have to offer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. RAMSAY: I think the two are...The way I see it, and I agree with the Justice Minister, the government is going to move forward and address the issue as it relates to the Dog Act and trying to move us into the 21st Century and get something that's going to protect animals in the Territory. But I think coupled with that is the community governments and bylaws that community governments have on the ground, and this doesn't have anything to do with what's going to be taking place, is at the community level to protect pets and pet owners at the community level. Here in Yellowknife we have a dog bylaw. There's not a cat bylaw but there's a dog bylaw. Some communities have more advanced dog bylaws than others. Some maybe don't even have anything. So what I'm saying is or suggesting is maybe MACA has a role in helping communities get bylaws that do have some teeth and bylaws that do make a difference to

pets and pet owners at the community level. The over-arching legislation, the one that I think the government is looking at or is going to be looking at doing, I think that will cover the whole Territory. But I think at the community level, MACA has a role to play in helping communities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: If it was a request of the community that MACA does come in and assist them with coming up with a bylaw as far as animals, dogs go, then it's something that we would endeavour to do.

A lot of the communities -- larger communities especially -- have their own municipal bylaws, and it would be unfair to them for us to go in there and say this is how it's going to be. If we can come up with territorial-wide legislation...We are working with the Department of ENR and the Department of Justice to come up with some legislation or some discussion paper. If we can come up with a piece of legislation that's over-arching, that's stronger than most of the ones in the communities and the ones that they may want to follow, then that would be a decision that they would make.

But we do, as the Member said and we heard a few times, there are concerns about our legislation and how weak it is, and how outdated it is and it needs to be, as the Member said, brought into the 21st Century. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you. Just in regards to the area of community planning, I think it's important that you still retain that capacity, but also you have the ability to do work on behalf of communities, especially the smaller communities, in regards to water treatment and whatnot -- with the communities I represent it's always been an issue with regard to water treatment plants -- and also working with the communities to implement guidelines in regards to what their responsibilities are when it comes to dealing with that. So I'd just like to know in regards to the capital planning stuff, how do you guys work with municipalities that don't have the capacity to deal with a lot of this stuff? I'll use an example of the water treatment plant in Aklavik. Basically it was a joint effort by government to put out a contract, put out a tender, but yet we've been waiting almost three years and we're still waiting for the water treatment plant to show up in the community. Yet there are issues around health in regards to the pylori study that's been going on in Aklavik in regards to testing all residents of Aklavik, and yet I don't really see MACA playing much role in that but I think they should be because you are responsible for the water treatment in those communities. So I'd just like to know where is the

department at. What role do you play in regards to ensuring the communities are given the resources and the technical people that's going to be needed so that when those assessments are completed and decisions are made by way of having to deal with your water reservoir or whatnot, that those communities have a capacity to be able to understand what those recommendations are. But, more importantly, more on those recommendations to improve the water sources in the community; the water source or even the treatment system that we have. I think for me that's the big problem. So I'd just like to know where do communities go to get that information from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The communities, if they realize that they need some help with their capital planning, they would contact the regional office and they would be able to provide them with the assistance they need in identifying capital projects and identifying financing and anything else that they're going to need. But MACA is quite available for the communities to take advantage of and to use until, as I said, and I'm quite confident, that the communities' capacities will get to a point where they'll be able to do all these on their own without the assistance of the department. But until then, MACA is available for any assistance that they may be able to provide to the communities. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, the whole reason that they've bundled the water treatment plants is because the communities can't basically look at that large an item to be built. So I mean, that was the whole intention of having that tender put in place to do that. But yet we have an issue in regards to the environment or health issue of a community, which is there's direct correlation between the water treatment and the systems we have in our communities and the health of the community. MACA still has a role to play, but it seems like this has become more a Health issue than a MACA issue, but MACA is responsible for the water treatment and delivery of water in communities. Yet, sure, you give the communities to basically put out those tenders, but yet at the end of the day MACA is the one that's responsible for the water licence in those communities. So I'd like to know exactly what does MACA do to ensure the health and well-being of those communities and adhered to, and also that there is someone there that basically is overseeing these activities that are going on in these communities.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: MACA recognizes the importance of good quality water in the communities. The bundled water treatment plants,

communities have that want to take part in the bundled water treatment plant it's a benefit to them, because it does make their price come down and they get a standardized water treatment plant with some of the other communities. It's a good program all the way around.

As far as the one in Aklavik goes, I think those contracts have been awarded and the work is being done on those. But as far as the quality of the water, the water there -- and again I speak from experience -- has issues. But as far as I know, it still met all of the water quality standards and with this new water treatment plant that's going into the community, then this is going to be something that people in the community are not going to have to worry about anymore is the quality of water. It is cost saving and that's the advice that MACA can assist the communities with, is being able to bring together a few communities that want to bundle projects and get a better price for it. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the three communities that I represent still operate under a contract with the Department of Public Works and Services. They provide that service. Yet we talk about empowering communities and for years I've been trying to get around that problem of getting out of those Public Works contracts.

Again, MACA is basically the one that basically has the responsibility to ensure and see that people are trained to ensure that you do have standards, you are responsible and that those treatment plants are operating as functionally as they are supposed to. There has been issues around the water treatment plant in Fort McPherson; there's been issues around the water treatment plant in Tsiigehtchic; and now in regards to this situation in Aklavik, they're waiting for a new water treatment plant to come in. Again, I know I've raised this issue as long as I've been here and this is always...Twelve years and we're still operating under a service contract with the Department of Public Works and Services, but almost every other community in the Territories have trained their own people, they have taken over this responsibility. So I would just like to know exactly where is MACA in regards to ensuring that you talk, that you're there to support and assist communities. Well, where is it?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: If it were the community's desire to want to take over the operation of the water treatment plant themselves and they approach MACA with it, then it's something that MACA would seriously have to look at. Because, like you said, we do talk about community empowerment and if it is their desire to look after the water treatment plant with their own community staff, then that's something that we would have to look at. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I'll try to put it another way in regards to MACA is the one that applies for the water licences for communities in the Northwest Territories. They go to the water boards and request the licence on behalf of the community. Under those licences there are certain criteria in regards to ensuring that you have trained staff, that you have the ability to ensure the safety in regards to the public that that water that is being processed in the communities and disposed of is in the licence that basically this government applies for on behalf of those communities. So because you are responsible for acquiring those licences, you're also responsible for ensuring that the conditions of those licences are being carried out. One of the conditions is to have trained staff and also treatment facilities that are functioning at the conditions of those licences.

So, again, I'd like to state that that responsibility still is with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Again, that's where I'm coming from. This government still has a responsibility to protect the public by way of the water and treatment facilities in our communities and that they function with the trained people and, more importantly, that they are fulfilling their obligations under the water licence. So I think that for me it's something that I feel that this government has to do more than simply just wait until a community comes running to you with a problem or like the problem in regard to Sachs Harbour, that problem in regards to the water treatment plant has been there for years. The water problem we have in Tsiigehtchic in regards to that water treatment plant has been a headache for years. Again, you have systems in place that are causing communities concern where you hear in this day and age to boil water orders or in some cases that people have to actually ask to go to another water source.

Again, I'd like to ask, exactly what role does the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs play by way of ensuring that those activities are carried out and also ensuring that you are the one responsible for those licences that are being applied for on behalf of communities?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, we don't apply for the licences for the communities. The community will apply for the licence themselves. MACA will fund them and MACA is concerned about the quality of water. We do take that responsibility seriously. There are no communities across the Northwest Territories that have water that's unsafe to drink. There might be a community where there's a boil water advisory, but this is all things that have to be worked out in the community. We keep going back to what are we doing. I mean, MACA is doing whatever they can to ensure that residents of the communities have safe drinking water and we will continue to do that regardless of

any other thoughts that are out there. We do have a responsibility. We accept that responsibility and we take it very seriously.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Next on my list I have Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under community operations, I'm still not 100 percent sure on how the funding works here, Mr. Chairman, when it pertains to mobile equipment. I guess, from what I understand, it's part of the \$28 million infrastructure contribution to the communities and with that money the communities will then take the money and they will put some of it into the various pots, one of the pots being capital. So they replace their machinery in that fashion.

So I guess my question is if the machinery wasn't replaced, would the community still get the same amount of capital dollars?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The mobile equipment is under regional operations. It doesn't fall under community operations; it falls under regional operations. The money that the communities use for mobile equipment, again, it goes back to the money that they're given from the department to replace any of their own mobile equipment and that would come out of the funding that they receive from us. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Okay. I wasn't sure, because I was looking at community operations and one of the issues that I'm seeing is that, I guess, when all the capital funding is under regional operations, the issue I was encountering was the fact that when the municipalities didn't seem to have enough money to pay a mechanic to retrofit their unit.

So let's take an example, a piece of equipment like a grader, which is deteriorating to a point when it had to be replaced much sooner than it should be replaced, had it been a private company that would keep those types of machinery going for a long, long time. I was in Fort Resolution and I noticed that the community had rented a water truck from a company in Hay River. The guy was driving, like, almost 24/7; well, not one guy, but the truck was actually running like 24/7. I asked the driver, I said brand new truck, must be nice. He said, actually this truck is two years older than the two trucks that are broke down here. This truck we rented from Hay River is eight years old and the two water trucks we have that are broke down are both six years old. I indicated to him, well, why is that? He said, well, there's no maintenance. I guess that was common.

I went to another community, of course my other community, Lutselk'e, and talked to a guy that actually did some maintenance on these projects and that was an issue, that it actually operates the machinery to a point where the machinery was ready for replacement and it was replaced. However, if that money to replace the machinery is coming from the community government, right, it's \$250,000. Even if it is coming from this government it's still \$250,000, right? One way or another it's still a lot of money. However, if the municipality were to have the money somewhere to fix the machinery, they would save thousands of dollars.

I'll ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, what is the plan? Because I actually sat in with the regional superintendent in Lutselk'e when he kind of taught the plan to the community. What safeguards does MACA have to ensure that machinery is fixed, if it's economically feasible to fix something for \$10,000? What's in place that tells MACA that this machinery should be fixed instead of replaced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we recognize the fact that in a lot of the smaller communities especially, the equipment does need maintenance and I've seen that firsthand. I always refer to when I was coming down from Inuvik I met a mechanic in Inuvik that was on his way to one of the High Arctic communities. They had hired him, along with another community, to do their maintenance and that was a decision that they made. MACA would be able to assist the communities in coming up with a maintenance management program. Again, I've said this probably, and I think the Chair is aware of it, probably about 10 times from the time I started this, that, again, it's up to the communities now. We've devolved that responsibility to communities. If they do the maintenance, if they set up the maintenance management program with the assistance of MACA and did their maintenance on a scheduled basis, I think we've all seen from personal experience that if you maintain something it will last you forever. So we'd be able to assist the communities in coming up with a maintenance management plan and then they would have the decision at the end of the day if they were going to follow the plan and I think most of them will. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Okay, thank you, Minister, for that answer. I still think there's an issue, because I don't believe that. It's not that I don't believe. What I've been told by the communities is that they don't have the money to hire a mechanic to fix the machinery right, because everything is budgeted a certain way and that's not like a budget item. They essentially go along until the machinery is worth nothing and then it gets replaced. Maybe I'm way out to lunch here, but this is what I'm told.

Now, I don't see a mechanic in Fort Resolution working on MACA equipment. I certainly didn't see one in Lutselk'e working on MACA equipment. So maybe the communities are choosing to ignore that aspect of it. In that case then, MACA should go and tell them, hey, you can't not do maintenance on your machinery and just wait for it to break down so it can be replaced. I recognize there is devolution here and there's responsibility that's being transferred to the community, but like many other areas that I talked about, governance development, financial management and so on, the community needs assistance in this area as well, in the area of maintenance management. Okay, so the Minister says there is a maintenance management plan that they can help with. I know for a fact that there are no logbooks inside the machinery; none. So if they hire a different truck driver, he has no idea when the last time the oil was changed in that vehicle. So I guess my question is, what type of support is there to implement the maintenance management program at community levels? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, again, MACA can assist with coming up with a plan. As far as implementing the plan -- and maybe I'm thinking on a different page here -- I don't know if it's MACA's responsibility, again, to implement the plan. I would think that with the people that you have in the communities -- community foreman, somebody that oversees the operation of the machinery -- I think it would be their responsibility to implement the plan. Like I said, maybe I'm on the wrong page here. I keep thinking that this is an opportunity here to devolve a lot of the authority to the community and not just walk away from the responsibility. We'll still continue to assist any way we can and maybe it's a mindset that's out there or an attitude that we may have to change and it may take some doing, but I still think that we're going to come to that and then the communities will have all the responsibly and the authority to do what they like in their community. I'm not sure if that answers the Member's question. But as far as implementing the actual plan that we come up with, I think it would be the communities and the maintenance foreman to implement that plan. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I have a question for the Minister. If the community has a capital plan, gas tax and plan and so on, and in that plan a few years down the road there's a plan to buy a grader -- we'll use that as an example -- can the community use that money? Instead of purchasing a grader, use that money to upgrade all of their machinery? Let's say they fixed up all their machinery. I guess, in a sense, averting the need to buy more machinery down the road and then use that money that was in the capital plan, their surplus that they now create by not replacing the machinery, can that community use that money for other infrastructure?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That's the beauty of the way we're going about doing business now. The community will have the authority to spend that money as they see fit. It would be their decision. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I apologize for being in the wrong section here. I thought it was in community operations. That made sense to me, but that's all the questions I have. I guess when we get to regional operations I'll have no questions.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay, with that we'll take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to break, we were on page 6-16, 6-17, community operations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. Operations expenditure summary, community operations, activity summary, \$3.369 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. Page 6-18, activity summary, community operations, grants and contributions, grants, \$350,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. Contributions, \$550,000. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$350,000 under grants, it talks about a taxation revenue program, but this is an expenditure. So are we receiving revenue in another place for this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I will refer to Ms. Gareau.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Gareau.

MS. GAREAU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Under the Property Taxation Revenue Grant Program MACA provides a grant to communities equivalent to the actual amount of property taxes collected within municipal boundaries in the prior taxation year. That's why it appears as a grant. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are on page 6-18, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question about the ground ambulance and highway

rescue. At one point we had a discussion that this program was being evaluated, I think, and perhaps being expanded. I know certainly the City of Yellowknife, it costs them more to provide the service than they get in revenue from GNWT. So has this program changed or is it still operating the same as it has been for the last 10 years or so? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The program is still operating the same. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: So if that's the case then, does this \$200,000 cover all the costs that communities either bill for or that they incur relative to ground ambulance and highway rescue?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: This funding doesn't cover all their costs. It's just distributed to the seven communities that do provide some sort of ground ambulance service.

MS. BISARO: Thanks for the answer. Maybe I should rephrase the question. In the city of Yellowknife, for instance, when they perform an ambulance service or a highway rescue outside of the city of Yellowknife, they incur a certain cost. I'm presuming that cost is submitted to MACA at some point. So the ground ambulance and highway rescue services and the costs for those that are provided by communities that is outside of their own boundaries, are those costs fully covered by GNWT?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: These costs are not covered by the GNWT.

MS. BISARO: So now I'm confused. Does that mean that none of the costs outside of municipalities are covered by the GNWT? And if it's none, what is this \$200,000 for?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The \$200,000 is divided amongst the seven communities that do provide some sort of ground ambulance service.

MS. BISARO: I give up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. I'd like to ask about ground ambulance and highway rescue as well. Just following up on Ms. Bisaro's point, actually, I see in the Minister's opening remarks that it is spread out through the different communities, but my question is more specific to assisting communities like Fort Simpson and Nahendeh. They actually do not have a highway rescue vehicle. That's something I raised in the House a couple of weeks ago. I know that MACA is

working with the Department of Health and Social Services. So I guess my question is, to what extent is that new ground ambulance and highway rescue strategic plan, I'm not too sure what it would be called, maybe if the Minister could elaborate on the co-proposal that they're looking at.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Polakoff.

MR. POLAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Member points out, MACA is working closely with the Department of Health and Social Services. Currently Health and Social Services is developing some program parameters that we'll be reviewing jointly and after we receive those we'll be developing with them a response to Fort Simpson and other communities in terms of what program parameters could look like.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Maybe if they can elaborate to what extent is the co-proposal looking at. My interest, of course, is there will be a major capital cost for new vehicles. Is that something both departments are looking at? If not, are they willing to go to the federal government to see what kind of a capital program they have? Can we do it within any existing capital program that we may have?

MR. POLAKOFF: Yes, the co-proposal, we would work with the community, clearly, but we're also very prepared to talk to the federal government. There may be some funding opportunities with the federal government that we've identified that we could take advantage of with the community.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Just one further point to add. If MACA can keep the Village of Fort Simpson in the loop with respect to this request, because I know this is a proposal that they are working on and they wish to pursue it. Any joint effort to do it will certainly go a long ways with the protection of the people of Nahendeh and the people that use our highway systems in my region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will keep the communities informed as we're going forward with this and we'll see what the best way is we can approach this.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions and comments are on the \$300,000 allocated to the Arctic Energy Alliance Community Energy Planning Program. I'm very supportive of that work. I think in the long run it will save us a lot of dollars. I'm wondering where we're at on community energy planning. I know that our communities are to complete their CEPs by 2010, I

believe it is. Are the communities on line for reaching that deadline?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the reason that we're asking for \$300,000, which is double the money we got last year, is to assist the communities in coming forward with their energy plans. Most of the communities, as far as I know, are developing their plans right now. So we're hoping to have something in place fairly soon.

MR. BROMLEY: As I said at the beginning, I'm very supportive of that. I think we can't ask communities to put those plans together without being prepared to support them. So I am very happy to see that. I know the community of Yellowknife and the community of Whati have done community energy plans. I'm wondering if we know how many community energy plans are completed so far.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We've only got three communities that have come forward with their community energy plan so far.

MR. BROMLEY: I recognize that there are a lot of communities that are working on this right now, but I know that this has been in the works for three years right now. What happens if the communities don't arrive by the deadline with their, if they're not...My understanding is they don't have access, then, to further funding or something like this. Is there a consequence?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We spoke with the federal government and they're aware that some of the communities still have a lot of work to do on coming forward with their energy plans. That's one of the reasons we've asked for an increase, is to enable the Arctic Energy Alliance to increase the efforts to supporting communities and helping them to create their plans.

MR. BROMLEY: Do we know how much help is being required of the tax-based communities versus the non-tax-based communities? Will most of this help go to one of those groups over the other?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We're not aware of that. I mean, we can try to find out the details and get back to the Member.

MR. BROMLEY: The last one on this, is this primarily to bump up the number of people working on that? Is that where the major cost is?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Member is correct; it is to bump up from one to three people to assist the communities in developing their plans.

MR. BROMLEY: I know it is a challenge, especially when the people are not based in the communities, so hopefully this will also provide them with a travel budget so they can spend significant time in the communities and get at it.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: This is to provide them with the increase in their efforts to support them and helping the community to develop their plan. I'm assuming that will include the travel budget and the budget for getting them in and out of the communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We're on page 6-18, community operations, activity summary, contributions, \$550,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total grants and contributions, \$900,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Information item, community operations, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Moving on to page 6-20, School of Community Government, activity summary, School of Community Government, operations expenditure summary, \$1.916 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just reading over the list of areas that there are government schools on. I don't see energy efficiency and renewable energy. How is the department handling that obvious need with the subject we just talked about plus the opportunities that represents?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we discussed, this is something that is fairly new out in the communities and there are some adjustments that are going to have to be made. I think once the communities realize that they're going to need some specialty training in this, then they would approach MACA and probably include that if there was a desire from the communities to include that in their courses that they offer through the School of Community Government. I'm confident that there is going to be a time when we get to that where we need to offer these courses to the communities.

MR. BROMLEY: It's obvious the need is there. I'm sure the Minister would agree and this whole government would agree and this whole government would agree. We're embarking on \$15 million to \$20 million per year of energy initiatives and so on, yet we can't find the expertise within the

Northwest Territories. I'm wondering if the Minister would look into, before, rather than waiting for the communities to come up with the idea to start looking into developing a program and perhaps also -- and I have highlighted this and I know others have with ECE and other departments -- getting some real training programs going at Aurora College to meet these sorts of needs. If a department like MACA, a significant department, is requesting this of Aurora College and ECE, I think it all adds up to something happening on the ground.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That is something we would have to have a look at, working with the Arctic Energy Alliance and any other partners we might have in developing a program, because we will need to tap into their expertise as to what type of programs they think we may need to offer to assist communities.

MR. BROMLEY: I would just again encourage the Minister to also be talking to ECE and Aurora College, because it is an NWT-wide thing and there are so many opportunities out there that if we had those folks in the communities right now, I know they'd be looking after auntie's hot water heating system and uncle's woodpile and so on and saving everybody. This is a real opportunity that I see for this government.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I agree with the Member that this is an opportunity for the government and it's something that we will seriously have a look at and see what we can do to bring something forward.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to highlight that yet again I still think the School of Community Government actually belongs in Aurora College and I'm not sure if the department has a position on that. I'd certainly like to hear if there's any consideration to that effect to work towards migrating the School of Community Government to an actual Aurora College program. Does the Minister have any thoughts from a policy point of view?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there's no thought of trying to amalgamate or move towards the Aurora College. The School of Community Government offers specific courses to community governments to assist them with their day-to-day operations. So this is something that the communities...It's a benefit to the communities because it's tailored for the communities. At this point there is no desire to have it as part of the Aurora College system.

MR. HAWKINS: Has there ever been any work done in that regard to see what type of synergies could be created if this training was operated out of or through the Aurora College program?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: This is part of a program review process right now, but I said again that the School of Community Government is specifically tailored to community government and the operation of community governments. I think that's where it needs to stay and be offered out of the department.

MR. HAWKINS: I didn't quite get the answer I was looking for. I'm curious if any work has been done to look at that consideration and any work been done identifying maybe some synergies to work with the college in this regard.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: No, I'm not aware of any work that has been done, but I can follow up with that and advise the Member if I come up with anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We're on page 6-21, School of Community Government, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$1.916 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Move on to page 6-22, information item, active positions, School of Community Government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Move on to pages 6-24 and 6-25, lands administration.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing that this division looks after and helps with or provides assistance to communities for community planning, and technical mapping, and surveying services, and reviewing subdivision plans, I'm wondering if the department is pushing the layout of lots and divisions that take advantage of south-facing lots for passive solar heating of homes. It's known to be a mechanism to save significant amounts of energy both for heating and lighting, plus it's pleasant and a lot of people like it. But I notice in the communities I work with, often the layout is such that it doesn't favour that sort of thing. It's a simple thing that could be taken care of, but I found when trying to do it, it was challenging to influence that. Yet with just a simple little approach change, people can gain a lot. So I'm wondering if this department is aware of that now or embarking on that sort of thing or would consider such a thing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities are ultimately responsible for the zoning and subdividing of lots. If they come up with a plan as to that, then that's something we look after the transfer of Commissioner's land and that, but the communities are the ones that are usually doing the subdividing and zoning of their properties.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that. Thanks for those comments from the Minister. Of course, I see that the department does review subdivision plans and provide technical mapping and surveying services to the community governments and, in fact, assists with community planning. It was from that standpoint that I was suggesting there was an opportunity here again.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I take the Member's point and we do have a look at the plans. If there is some assistance or advice that we can offer to the communities, if they're acceptable to that, then that's something we'd be willing to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We're on page 6-25, activity summary, lands administration, operations expenditure summary, \$2.627 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question with regard to the Commissioner's Land Act and leasing of lands within the Territory. Basically mining leases is what I'm concerned about and the Minister knows that. A question relative to the Tamerlane project at the old Pine Point mine. We've been advised that there is a provision under the act that security can be required, but basically the department has not been doing that. So I wanted to know whether or not for this project, as it is going to go forward in the near future, is the department looking at requiring financial security for the lease of the lands.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is right; there are regulations and there have been concerns with performance security. If it's Commissioner's land and we enter into an agreement with them, we probably would require performance security. There is also the Commissioner's Land Act that's coming before committee and if there are suggestions as to how we can tighten up and strengthen the provisions in there to make it mandatory that security is provided, then that's something we would be listening to.

MS. BISARO: So just to follow up then. At this point there has not been any financial security required for the Tamerlane project.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: No, there hasn't, not from our department.

MS. BISARO: So I guess my next question would be, is there an intention to require that kind of financial security?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We'll follow up with that, because I'm just talking with my officials here and we're not quite sure if it's, I think it's a combination of Commissioner's and Crown land, so we'd have to clarify that and I'll follow that up with the Member.

MS. BISARO: Thank you. I look forward to that clarification.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. We're on page 6-25, activity summary, lands administration, operations expenditure summary, \$2.627 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Moving on to page 6-26, information item, active positions, lands administration.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Page 6-28, sport, recreation and youth. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to highlight again that I don't see the games dollars identified and allocated here. I think the Minister earlier today explained that will be coming down the pipe and he has made a commitment to make sure that gets done, which I greatly appreciate. But again -- and I think it's been highlighted with other situations in this budget -- that's not really what the supp is meant for. These are pretty much known entities. We can certainly do a ballpark estimate and I really think in the normal course of budget planning they should be clearly identified and up front. That will keep us more real. I just want to raise that as a comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can understand the Member's concern with the supp process. We're just hoping to try to get the numbers as close to the actual numbers as possible. We could put a number in there and say that this is it, but we're hoping to try to come forward with as accurate a number as possible and that's the reason. As I said earlier today, we're kind of waiting on the report and have our discussions with all the stakeholders and this and see where we go from there. But we are hoping to come forward with a fairly accurate supp that will reflect the actual cost of sending a team to the games.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Moving on. Page 6-29. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you. I wanted to ask a couple questions here with regard to funding for games as well. The Minister has said that there is no line item in here that includes funding for Canada Summer Games. I guess I would like to know how the games are going to be funded if the GNWT is not providing money up front. How is the department planning on providing the funding for travel, for clothing, for mission staff, et cetera, for Canada Summer Games?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for the Canada Summer Games comes from the federal government and flows through this department. Those costs and those games are coming up, I believe, in August. So those would be taken care of. Then as far as the funding for the Arctic Winter Games, well, we're hoping to come forward with a fairly accurate number.

MS. BISARO: I'm getting questions, concerns, from parents of children who are training right now for Canada Summer Games. They are being advised that there is no funding for Canada Summer Games. So if it's coming from the federal government, how is this information getting out to the kids that there's no funding available and that they're sort of in fear that they're not going to be able to go? When do we get the money from the federal government? I'll start with that. When do we get the money from the federal government?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The money is confirmed. It will be flowing to us within the next two or three months.

MS. BISARO: That's good to hear. What organization is it then that runs the selection of athletes and the trials and so on and does all the mission staff and looks after the athletes from, I'm looking at just Canada Summer Games. What organization deals with the management of athletes for Canada Summer Games?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Sport North is the managing body for the Canada Summer Games. And just to assure the Member and give comfort to those out there that are training, it is MACA's commitment and Sport North's commitment to have a team at the Canada Summer Games and the Arctic Winter Games, so we should make that quite clear to the people out there that are listening right off the bat. We do plan on having teams at both these games, just so there's some comfort there.

MS. BISARO: If Sport North, then is the organization that's doing the management of Canada Summer Games athletes and the whole sort of coordination of that activity, is there an

agreement between GNWT and Sport North, a contract or MOU of some sort, to do that or are they simply doing it on spec?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: There is an arrangement between the GNWT and Sport North.

MS. BISARO: I would hope that's a signed arrangement, but I'll leave it at that. Does this arrangement include a definition or an outline of funding and when the money comes and who pays for what?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, it does.

MS. BISARO: Will Sport North get the money in advance or will they have to expend the money and then bill for it?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Sport North will get that money in advance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Do you have something to add, Mr. McLeod?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: No. I'm fine. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We're on page 6-29, sport, recreation and youth, activity summary, operations expenditure summary, \$4.971 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Moving on to 6-30, activity summary, sport, recreation and youth, grants and contributions, grants, \$100,000. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I mentioned in my opening remarks that funding for youth is found in a number of places. There are three pots of money on page 6-30 and I think there are another two pots of money in a section or two onwards. Can I get an explanation as to why we put the money into these specific pots? I guess I would like an opinion from the department on whether or not having five different pots of money is actually felt to be successful. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The funding for the youth programs, the youth corps in the particular, there's some funding here if you'll notice, the \$675,000 would be for almost territorial-wide. If we go further on in one of the regional operations you'll notice another figure in there of \$500,000. That is more a regional-based pot of money. That's the reasoning that we divide the money, is to have this particular amount that

could be accessed by the capital. As far as territorial youth initiatives go, then there's a pot of money for the community youth initiatives.

Actually, it was a question that I asked them. If it's a concern, then I'm sure that we'd be able to find a way to try and put it all into a central-type pot and then just divvy it up from there. It would make it a little less confusing than having it all over the books. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: It just seems to me that if there's a specific focus that the department wants to put on youth programming, whether it's the department that has the focus or whether it's the government that has the focus, I would think it would be an awful lot easier to put the money where you want it to go if it's not in five different specifically allocated grants or contributions. For purposes of coordination and getting best value for the money that's out there, I would suggest that it probably should be in one pot.

I did have a question, as well, on the same page to do with the recreation contributions for \$450,000 and then Pan-Territorial Sports Program for \$130,000. They both seem to be contributions to sport and recreation partners. Could I have an explanation of why we have to have another two pots here as well? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I think the Member was asking about the recreation contribution and the Pan-Territorial Sports Program and the funding and why we have it in two different areas. I didn't quite hear the question and I apologize for that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Bisaro, could you clarify your question.

MS. BISARO: Yes, that's correct. I wanted to know why we are contributing to sport and recreation partners from two different pots of money when it sounds like it's exactly the same purpose. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The \$450,000 is a contribution to the Sport and Rec Council of the Northwest Territories. The \$130,000 goes to everyone else; contributions to the sport and rec partners. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Maybe it's the hour. I'm having a really hard time understanding that answer. Perhaps I could have names. The \$450,000, what organizations does that go to and what organizations does the \$130,000 go to? If the Minister doesn't have it and can provide it on a piece of paper later, that's absolutely fine. I really didn't understand his answer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA, is there a possibility that we can get copies of that so Members can see the sheet that you're reading off?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I apologize if my answers aren't very clear. I try to make them as clear as possible. We will get the numbers on a piece of paper and we will distribute it to committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm still on the high performance athletes' grants and I see we're staying even there. In the Weledeh constituency we're very fortunate to have a number of high performance athletes, but I'm hearing that expenses haven't stayed stable while this fund has actually decreased a bit in the last couple of years. I'm also appreciative...I think there's been a program of business sponsorship of our high performance athletes, which I think looks like a great program. I don't know whether MACA was involved in putting that together, but I think that's really good and appreciated by the athletes. I'm wondering if there's any thought being given to increasing that budget and maybe planning for that next year if not this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, that's something that we would have to look at if we go forward with next year's budget, because our uptake on this year's actual, the \$100,000 for this year, is quite extensive. It's probably more than I've seen it before. The majority, pretty well all of the recipients were from the southern part of the Northwest Territories. We have had good uptake this year. We have a lot of athletes out there that are competing at a national level. If we see an opportunity or if there are funds available to increase our support, then I think it's something that we should have a look at. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next I have Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have we agreed to page 6-29?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Yes. We're on page 6-30. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have questions for the Minister on youth centres and youth corps. I notice the youth centre money was doubled, so that's a positive thing, but is it at this point just going to the communities that are currently operating youth centres?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of MACA.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct; it is going to communities that are operating youth centres and it's application-based. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: On the youth corps, that's for youth programming. What's the method of applying for that \$675,000?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, it is advertised and this one is also another program that is application-based. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We're on page 6-30, activity summary, sport, and recreation and youth, grants and contributions, grants, \$100,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Contributions, \$2.045 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total grants and contributions, \$2.145 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next page, 6-31, information item, sport, recreation and youth, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Regional operations. Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 10-16(3):
REVIEW OF SMALL COMMUNITY ROAD
SERVICE ASSESSMENT AND DESIGN WORK
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this committee strongly recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs review and update, where necessary, the assessment and design work previously completed under the Main Street Chipseal Program for Non-Tax-Based Communities;

And further, that the department then share their findings with the Department of Transportation to allow the government to take cooperative and informed actions in advancing a small community chipseal program and achieving meaningful progress on local road surfacing in small communities.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. A motion is on the floor and is being

distributed now. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is, I guess, the second part of a motion, or the second motion. We've passed a very similar motion with the Department of Transportation in efforts to try to get some of the streets in our communities chipsealed. We talked extensively, I think, in the House, myself along with some of the other small communities, non-tax-based and remote communities, about the necessity to have chipseal anywhere from just improving the standards of living to increasing the property values to health. We've got situations where the community, the people that do suffer from various lung diseases including asthma and so on, have lots of issues with the dust and sometimes the dust is really bad in the communities. Sometimes it's bearable, but it's always there.

This is, again, I don't have a whole lot to add to this it's just in the hopes that the smaller communities could get the communities chipsealed and this is, again, one more step to try and achieve that goal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I, too, will be supporting the motion. Mr. Chair, there was a lot of work done going back to 2003-2004 all the way up to just last year where a lot of legwork was done in regard to doing the assessment, the design and looking at the upgrades and drainage in 15 communities. A lot of this legwork has already been done. I believe we spent somewhere in the range of \$4.5 million in four communities, but yet there were 15 communities on the list to be done in the future in which they were supposed to be expending another \$5 million for future years activity, but this program was cancelled.

This is something I believe will very much improve the quality of life in the communities and also improve the infrastructure in our communities so that it will cut down the cost of O and M, maintenance of our roads and also improve the drainage in a lot of our communities, which especially nowadays with the West Nile Virus and things like that out there, I think we have to take the drainage in our communities very seriously.

Again, I will be supporting the motion and I would like to point out that a lot of this legwork has been done. It's already in the departments and I'd just like to not see it go to waste. If anything, that we should do everything we can to finish off the project that was started in 2003-2004 but never was concluded. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will now continue with the details. We're on page 6-33, activity summary, regional operations, operations expenditure summary, \$68.867 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-34, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, community government, grants and contributions, grants. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question unfortunately. There is a contribution for recreation funding but then we also have grants for community government funding under grants. I'm just wondering why we don't include the \$825,000 for recreation funding in with the grants given to communities for their general municipal operations and provision of services and so on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's actually a very good question and we'll have to have a look at that and see if we can incorporate that. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: That's great. I give up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We're on regional activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, community government grants and contributions, grants, \$47.844 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Contributions, \$12.481 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Total community government, grants and contributions, \$60.325 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-35, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, other grants and contributions, grants, \$55,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Contributions, \$675,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Total other grants and contributions, \$730,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Total grants and contributions, \$61.055 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Page 6-36, information item, regional operations, active positions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I'd like to ask the department if they can give us a breakdown with regard to the affirmative action and also if they have people working in this department with a disability. Also, if it's possible, could you do it for all the department responsibilities, so that we can have a list of people in the department and exactly are you implementing the Affirmative Action Policy correctly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd be happy to provide the Member with the list. We have it here on paper and we have enough copies here for everyone.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Well prepared. Anything further, Mr. Krutko? Hearing nothing, we'll move on. We're on page 6-36, information item, regional operations, active positions. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-38, work performed on behalf of others. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just in regard to the regional operations and the positions in the different regions, you know we do have an aging workforce and we do have to do a job to retain a lot of people in those departments. I'd like to ask the Minister: Exactly what are we doing in regard to recruitment, retention and training for people to fill these positions by way of managerial positions in the different regions in the communities. These people are important assets, especially in our regions. What is being done to provide training in keeping with the capacity issues we have in our regions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's part of the process that we're working on with LGANT and NWTAC along with HR is to hopefully identify those in the communities that could take advantage of...We're just trying to come up with a process right now whether it be interns or on-the-job training type things. That is in the works because we do recognize that we are going to have to replace a lot of the workforce and get more people interested in community administration. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Page 6-36, information item, regional operations, active positions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 6-38, work performed on behalf of others. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Can the Minister tell me what the \$2,000 for the Gwich'in implementation is for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not able to come up with the details right now, but I'll have it broken down and given to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Anything further, Mr. Krutko? Committee, we're on page 6-38, information item, work performed on behalf of others. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued, page 6-39. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): And finally, page 6-40. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I just have a question in regards to the gas tax. Is the gas tax based on the price of the fuel or could there be a decrease in regards to the effect on the gas tax? Or is that what's been collected in the region or is that a federal...How do they calculated that \$50 million? Is there any possibility of it declining because of the economic situation we've found ourselves in?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This wasn't based on the price of the gas; it was an agreement that was signed four years ago with the

federal government and this is where we're at with it today. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: I just have a question in regards to what's the term of the agreement that was signed? Is it 10 years? Fifteen years? Is there a time frame for the agreement that has been signed in regards to the federal gas tax? My understanding is the gas tax is subject to that the communities have to meet certain conditions, and I believe they talk about having the different plans you have to have in place in regards to a community...Was it the environment review? Community plans have to be concluded in order to show that you are actually spending those gas tax on certain items. So what's the time frame of this agreement and also what are some of the conditions that this agreement was signed under?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The agreement was signed I think four years ago for a term of 10 years. Then as far as the conditions of the agreement, I don't have that with me, but I can get a copy of that and pass that on to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Committee, we're on page 6-40, information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. We'll return now to the deferred page, 6-7, department summary, operations expenditure summary, \$86.229 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that that concludes the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank the Minister and the witnesses and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses out of the House.

Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I'd like to move a motion to report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 11-16(3), NWT Main Estimates 2009-2010, and would like to report progress, with one motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Madam Clerk, item 23, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan): There will be a meeting of the Board of Management at the rise of the House in Committee Room 'A'.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.:

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

15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy
 - Tabled Document 11-16(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2009-2020
 - Committee Report 2-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on Matters Referred to the Committee
 - Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Historical Resources Act
 - Bill 3, International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act
 - Bill 4, Public Library Act
 - Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 7:38 p.m..

