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The Honourable Frederick Blake Jr, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	393
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	393
24-19(2) – Conservation Network Gathering (Thompson)	393
25-19(2) – Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month (Thom)	393
26-19(2) – Fort Good Hope Seniors Complex (Chinna)	394
27-19(2) – Minister Absent from the House (Cochrane)	395
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	395
Northview Real Estate Investment Trust Purchase (Johnson)	395
Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act Implementation (O'Reilly)	395
P3 Projects in the Northwest Territories (Martsellos)	396
Seniors in Long-Term Care (Rocky Simpson)	397
Municipal Land Transfers (Cleveland)	397
Support for Seniors Aging in Place (Lafferty)	398
New Federal Child and Family Services Legislation (Green)	398
Income Security in the Northwest Territories (Norn)	399
Service to Residents of Nunakput (Jacobson)	399
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	400
REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS	400
ORAL QUESTIONS	403
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	413
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	413
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	434
ORDERS OF THE DAY	434

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Members Present

Hon. Paulie Chinna, Ms. Cleveland, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Green, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Martselos, Mr. Norn, Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Semmler, Hon. R.J. Simpson, Mr. Rocky Simpson, Hon. Diane Thom, Hon. Shane Thompson, Hon. Caroline Wawzonek.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms. Semmler): Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 24-19(2):
CONSERVATION NETWORK GATHERING

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Madam Speaker. The 19th Legislative Assembly believes our decisions must reflect a full understanding of our communities and regions. It is our responsibility to ensure that the needs of our residents are reflected in the decisions that will impact them. This is especially important when it comes to decisions about the land, Madam Speaker. That's why our northern Indigenous governments and communities are at the heart of our northern approach to establishing and managing protected areas.

The Northwest Territories is a leader in Canada when it comes to conservation plans. We work closely with our Indigenous partners to protect the Northwest Territories' natural and cultural diversity. Today, I am pleased to tell you about a gathering that was held in Yellowknife recently to help advance this work.

On February 26 and 27, 2020, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources hosted this territorial first Conservation Network Gathering. The idea behind this gathering, Madam Speaker, is to share experiences and build partnerships to manage territorial protected areas under the new Protected Areas Act.

More than 100 partners from across the Northwest Territories took part in the two-day gathering, including Indigenous governments and organizations, territorial and federal departments, funders, academics, and conservation leaders from across Canada. Topics discussed included:

- new ideas in conservation and stewardships;

- the role of Indigenous guardians; and
- on-the-land success stories.

They also talked about the financial reality of protected areas and best practices for management and research. "Healthy land, healthy people" is our five-year plan for conservation network planning. It lays out how the Government of the Northwest Territories is moving forward together with its partners to protect the integrity of our northern ecosystems. Protected areas can also provide new job opportunities for small communities. Madam Speaker, the guardian programs, land-based products, and cultural tourism are all ways we can expand and diversify our economy.

Over the upcoming months, Environment and Natural Resources will work closely with our partners to develop a new "healthy land, healthy people" work plan to guide us over the next five years. Madam Speaker, we need to hear from all stakeholders as we determine a path forward. That is why I am pleased to confirm that we have secured federal funding for the next three years to make the Conservation Network Gathering an annual event.

Madam Speaker, we look forward to working together to develop the next made-in-the-North conservation work plan to keep our land healthy for current and future Northerners and visitors to enjoy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 25-19(2):
COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DIANE THOM: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We all want better health for our families and communities. The choices we make are important for our overall health and well-being. By eating good, being physically active, reducing the amount of alcohol we drink, living tobacco-free, and making healthy choices, we can help reduce the risk of getting chronic disease like cancer.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Canada, and it is important that we talk about it. Over the past few decades, we have learned more about

cancer, which is resulting in more people surviving than ever before. This is why it is important to observe cancer awareness months.

Madam Speaker, this month is Colorectal Awareness Month, and it is dedicated to raising awareness about colorectal cancer and honouring those who have been affected by this disease. Colorectal cancer is preventable; it's treatable. Yet here in the Northwest Territories, the incidence of being diagnosed with colorectal cancer is twice the rate than in the rest of Canada. Many people are unaware that they can reduce the risk of getting it with timely screening and healthy lifestyles.

Madam Speaker, the best protection we have against colorectal cancer is early detection. Taking a fecal immunochemical test, or FIT test, is the easiest way for Northwest Territories residents to learn if they are at risk of colorectal cancer. In an effort to improve screening and early detection, "one and done" FIT screening is an effort to improve screening and early detection. It was introduced in 2018. This approach makes it easier for people to collect a sample at home and return it to their healthcare provider. The FIT test, which you can easily do at home, is recommended for residents ages 50 to 74 and should be completed at least every two years.

To increase screening rates for colorectal cancer in our territory, Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority just launched a pilot project in February to mail FIT screening kits to eligible residents. The pilot project focuses on the Beaufort-Delta region. If the approach is successful, it will be expanded across the territory. Our aim is to increase the participation screening rate to meet the national goal of 60 percent.

Madam Speaker, we have also distributed community cancer awareness kits to community health representatives. Health care staff can use these comprehensive kits in their communities to raise awareness and have conversations with residents about the importance of early screening and healthy living.

In February, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority also launched two educational cancer videos. Part of the seven series, these videos aim to help residents better understand cancer and the importance of screening in the NWT. These videos were created in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services and the University of Alberta's Indigenous and Global Health Research group. The videos were developed through community consultations in the Northwest Territories, incorporated feedback from community members in Fort Good Hope, Inuvik, and Yellowknife. Residents can view them on the website, cancernwt.ca. The

videos were also distributed to the health centres for use and will be promoted on social media.

While it is important to improve screening rates and to communicate directly about cancer with Northwest Territories residents, it is also critical that we support those patients who are battling cancer right now. We know that the emotional and physical effects of cancer can make it difficult for patients to process information. To help support patients and families, the NWT Health Authority has hired and trained two full-time cancer Nurse Navigators. The Nurse Navigators are specially trained to help patients and their families through their cancer journey.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to encourage all residents, particularly those aged 50 to 74, to speak to their health care providers about getting screened. Let us work together to promote healthy living, reduce the risk of colorectal cancer and other cancers, and support those who are living with it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 26-19(2): FORT GOOD HOPE SENIORS COMPLEX

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supporting the housing needs of seniors is very important to our people in our communities. To do this, a key approach to support our elders is to recognize their desire to have friends and family close by as they age and to remain in familiar surroundings.

Having those strong networks of your long-time friends and family around you has impacts on your health and your age. Having the support to age in place in your home community will improve the quality of life for seniors and may prevent early admission to long-term care facilities.

I am pleased to advise Members that we will be ready to open the new Fort Good Hope Seniors' Centre this spring. This centre is the last of five centres that were designed in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services, taking into consideration local guidance and input. The development of these units has improved the lives of seniors in Aklavik, Fort Liard, Fort McPherson, Whati, and soon Fort Good Hope.

These complexes feature eight units that will be occupied by seniors and one unit will be designated as a caretaker unit. An on-site caretaker improves the safety and security of the building. As part of these designs, these buildings feature common areas where therapeutic and lifestyle programming

can be delivered for seniors. The designs include non-step entrances to suites, wider doors, and common spaces that are used for delivery of Health and Social Services programming.

Madam Speaker, seniors are the bedrock of our lives. They have been there for us since the day we were born. They have given so much to us. Their knowledge, their guidance and their love. As such, we needed to take the time and use the necessary resources to ensure that these units were built to the best standard available. It is important that we give back to the ones that have given us so much. I look forward to opening this facility and celebrating with elders and their families as they move in to their new home. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 27-19(2):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Madam Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Katrina Nokleby will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference in Toronto, Ontario. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NORTHVIEW REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT
TRUST PURCHASE

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In light of Starlight Investments and KingSett Capital's recent intention to purchase Northview Real Estate, thus making the two largest landlords in Yellowknife. One, I wanted to read an open letter to CEO Jon Love of KingSett Capital and CEO Daniel Drimmer of Starlight Investments.

Congratulations on your intention to purchase Northview Real Estate Investment Trust for \$4.8 billion. I wish to inform you that, upon closing this deal, you will own a small city in the subarctic called Yellowknife.

Yellowknife also happens to be the capital city of the Northwest Territories. I invite you to come and visit sometime. It's a beautiful place. In case you were not aware, Northview presently owns the majority of rental apartment units in Yellowknife, and when combining their commercial stock with KingSett's current Yellowknife stock, you will own the majority of commercial leasing space, as well. I

have attached a picture of our downtown core to show you all the buildings you will own, one of which KingSett has managed to keep vacant for almost a decade. It recently had its siding fall off; I have attached that picture for you, as well.

Additionally, congratulations on your intention to purchase a company which is our city's leader in residential tenancies violations. When you come visit our town, I hope you will visit the various Northview apartments that have been left in disrepair due to rent money flowing south to fuel other capital investments. Before you purchase our city, I wanted to ensure that you are aware of the fact that the majority of Yellowknifers have, at some point, lived or worked in one of the buildings in this deal, and I have yet to ever hear a single positive thing about that fact.

My apologies, Dan. I know you have significant amount of investment in Northview, but I hope, as our new landlords, we can start a fresh and do some work to repair the relationship with our residents.

Now I recognize that by design real estate is first and foremost an investment for your companies and the fact that people live and work in your property is secondary; but I would hope you both put something extra in for exceptional cases such as this.

As I am sure you are aware the North is an exceptional market. The capitalization rate for Northview's Northern Canada holdings is 9.17 percent which is 55 percent higher than its overall capitalization rate and 40 percent higher than its next most profitable region. Of course KingSett, as a private equity fund for institutional and ultra-high net worth investors, does not have the transparency of an exchange-traded REIT like Northview, such that similar information is not publicly available for KingSett's current holdings in northern Canada.

Madam Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

I also note that Northview's current market power, combined with KingSett's market share, is an index that will make Yellowknife one the most highly concentrated real estate markets in Canada.

Dan, Jon, we all know this deal is not really about Yellowknife. There are so many assets in your combined multi-billion-dollar portfolios that I wouldn't expect you to ever know them all by city. I am hopeful that this letter, despite its sarcastic tone, can start a conversation. There are a variety of remedies available that will ensure the acquisition of Northview can allow some competition to once again exist in our northern

capital. I have brought this market share issue to the Competition Bureau of Canada's attention on multiple occasions. I encourage you to reach out to them and divest some of Yellowknife assets in this deal, ideally on a small enough scale to allow local ownership in a city which is desperately in need of competition and local developers. At the very least, perhaps you could try and do something about that 10-storey vacant tower that you own.

Yours truly, Rylund Johnson, MLA for Yellowknife North.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECTION
OF PRIVACY ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Madam la Presidente. In June 2019, the Assembly passed historic changes to the Access to Information Protection of Privacy Act that had been in the works since 2012. The then-Minister of Justice worked well with standing committee, and we now have very good legislation; in fact, it may be the best in Canada. There was extensive consultation with GNWT departments, public bodies, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, as well as the general public. Feedback received during the course of these consultations, including the Information and Privacy Commissioner's extensive submission, and recommendations identified by the standing committee were thoroughly considered and informed the development of the bill. Mandatory exemptions were reduced, the jurisdiction of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was clarified giving that officer the ability to issue binding orders, and the act will apply to municipal governments, as suggested by several parties over many years.

What is not clear is the Minister's plans for implementing the recommendations as documented in the November 2016 "what we heard" report from public consultations. These issues included fee reductions, training, identification of classes of records that do not require an ATIPP application, and many more.

When I asked the former Minister of Justice about fee reductions on June 6, 2019, he responded by saying:

- the initial fee for general requests would be dropped from \$25 to \$10;
- there would be 10 free hours of processing for general requests;
- photocopy charges would be dropped to 10 cents per page; and

- personal information charges would be kept at \$25, but the number of free pages would be increased from 100 to 200.

Madam Speaker, we're still waiting for these changes. I will have questions for the Minister of Justice on the next steps of implementing the amendments passed in the last Assembly to the Access to Information and Protections of Privacy Act. Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Members' statements. Member for Thebacha.

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
P3 PROJECTS IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES**

MS. MARTSELLOS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My statement today is about P3 Projects in the Northwest Territories. Following the public technical briefing on the new Stanton Territorial Hospital, which took place on February 11, 2020, officials within the Departments of Health and Social Services and Infrastructure confirmed a series of pervading issues that have been plaguing the new building since it opened in May 2019.

Madam Speaker, for clarification the initial amount designated for the new hospital was \$350 million, according to the media release of October 1, 2015. This project over the 35-year period, which includes the old Stanton Legacy Building, will now cost \$751 million plus. The operating and maintenance contract is also included in this P3. Boreal Health Partnership and Dexterra are the main proponents in this agreement. According to the officials of the Departments of Health and Social Services and Infrastructure this agreement/contract is being defended as a good agreement despite it putting our future governance and our people of the NWT in a very crucial financial deficit because of a very dysfunctional agreement, decisions and final signoffs being done improperly on behalf of the people of the NWT. However, as an MLA who is concerned about P3s, I think the figure that the Department of Finance provided is neither concrete nor precise and that it will cost much more than that. As all MLAs have experienced, we have had a couple of supplements in this 19th Assembly already.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, the terms and conditions of the Stanton project are not clear either. Once again, not enough attention was paid to the details of this agreement. When detail is not properly taken into account and politicians signed off on these types of agreements, these projects can and will have a major impact, both on the people of the Northwest Territories as well as the future of our government. This is exactly what happened with the P3 agreement of the new

Stanton hospital along with the legacy building of the old Stanton hospital.

Could I have unanimous consent to continue my statement, Madam Speaker?

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. MARTSELLOS: Madam Speaker, accountability and transparency are extremely important when dealing with public money. The money that is being used belongs to the people of the NWT. Most of the P3s are contracted with southern companies and the money flows south with little benefit to people of the NWT. P3s can be a positive way of doing business if we're dealing with northern companies or Indigenous groups and the detailed agreements are firm, signed off properly, and all the monies stay in the North. I will be asking questions to the Minister of Finance on this issue. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Members' statements. Member for Hay River South.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SENIORS IN LONG-TERM CARE

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to talk about seniors, and more specifically, to those seniors residing in the care facilities operated by this government.

Madam Speaker, prior to her passing, my mother lived in one of those facilities for a number of years. She was somewhat reluctant to move in at first, but once she was settled and realized that some of her friends were there, it became easier to adjust. While living in the facility, she was always visited and surrounded by family and friends. This was very important to her.

However, Madam Speaker, not all seniors have family and/or friends, and thereby find themselves alone. Although my mother is no longer in the facility in Hay River, I still try and visit the people there and take some of the foods that they probably shouldn't have, because it is about respect for our seniors, their quality of life, and it is the right thing to do.

Madam Speaker, when I visit these seniors, some may or may not remember me, but one thing they all have in common is that they are pleased to be able to have a conversation with someone. They all have stories to tell. They all have family members somewhere, and they will let you know how much they miss those members, and how proud they are of them.

We expect our staff to interact with the residents. They are busy as well, however, the staff have

tasks they have to accomplish throughout their shift during the day. There are activity coordinators on site who also interact and provide the residents of its facility with recreational opportunities. The number of staff is not sufficient to provide the personal interaction time the residents need.

I'm not asking for more staff as it is important that in addition to families, we should look at engaging the community. It may be as simple as encouraging the local seniors' society, students, or businesses that would be willing to offer a few hours of their time to visit, which I know the seniors would find rewarding.

Madam Speaker, the seniors in these facilities or who may be at home alone need that social interaction. They need to be physically active. They need to feel like they can still contribute. They need to be shown they matter, and most important, they need to know they are loved. Madam Speaker, we have to slow down and reflect on what is important to us, and remember exactly why we are here. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MUNICIPAL LAND TRANSFERS

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The process of land transfers to municipal governments is not working. It prevents municipal governments from having the authority and autonomy to make timely land use decisions within municipal boundaries and impedes business development. In addition, YKDFN is now trading land with the City of Yellowknife, essentially removing the GNWT from the process.

Twenty-five years ago, MACA helped community governments develop land use plans and administered lands within municipal boundaries. MACA has long since devolved the responsibility for developing community land use plans to municipal councils, but the planning and administration process remains regressive and paternalistic.

The Community Planning and Development Act explains that a community plan guides the physical growth and development of the community. Under that act, a municipality must submit its plan to the Minister of MACA for approval before it has any force and effect. The act requires the plan be developed in consultation with a professional community planner so, Madam Speaker, why is the Minister's approval still required?

If an individual or Yellowknife business owner needs land, they must approach the city for a parcel of land within city boundaries. The city must then

turn to the Department of Lands to seek access to that land through fee simple title transfer or land lease.

The current turnaround time for land transfers between Lands and the City of Yellowknife is an average of six to 10 months. During this time, if an application is declined or a secondary piece of land is suggested, the process and timelines start over. If the project requires new or conditional zoning, then there is an additional processes the city must go through.

If the city had fee simple tenure on land, the City of Yellowknife could sell or lease city land to the individual or business without the six to 10 months required for GNWT approvals, therefore allowing businesses to be more responsive to economic development opportunities including remediation projects from the federal government and tourism development driven by the GNWT. If efficient community planning is our concern, then, it is not clear to me what is gained by the MACA Minister needing to approve the city's community plan every year along with any revisions.

The Minister of Lands has indicated a willingness to make progress in this area, and I look forward to continuing this conversation with them. It will require leadership, collaboration between the departments of Lands, MACA, and EIA, along with a clear terms of reference and guidelines and timelines, as well. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Members' statements. Member for Monfwi.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR SENIORS AGING IN PLACE

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Madam Speaker. [Translation] Madam Speaker, I want to talk about senior citizens. We want the best for our seniors, and that's why we are speaking up, and the Premier had just given out the priorities, and one of them is elders. Sometimes, the elders' private home furnaces don't work. We want to make people aware of that to help them. [Translation ends]

Today, I would like to walk the talk and discuss something that is very important to me, and that is carrying for our seniors in the Northwest Territories; more specifically, my region. Madam Speaker, On February 7th, the Premier tabled the 2019-2023 Mandate for the Government of the Northwest Territories. That mandate included 22 priorities for this government to focus on for the next three and a half years. One of them happens to be allowing or enabling seniors to age in their place with dignity. Under that priority, this government committed to increasing supports for seniors to stay in their homes and also in their communities. This

government also committed to funding actions to remove community-level barriers to aging in place.

Madam Speaker, many seniors in our communities are having difficulty maintaining their homes, and I believe that we need to step up to assist them more so that our seniors can, in fact, age in place with dignity.

Madam Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation at the appropriate time. Masi.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Monfwi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEW FEDERAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES LEGISLATION

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On January 1st this year, a new and unprecedented piece of federal legislation came into effect. Canada is now legislating Indigenous child welfare in an area that is a provincial and territorial responsibility. The purpose of An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families is to recognize the inherent right Indigenous people have over child and family services and to set national standards in this area. In short, Indigenous children should grow up with their families, immersed in their culture and language.

Madam Speaker, I am going to review some of the highlights of this legislation as context for asking the Minister of Health and Social Services how this act aligns with the standards of the child and family services legislation in the NWT. The federal government started consultation on this act two years ago, following an acknowledgement that Indigenous children and youth are overrepresented in care. In fact, it is often repeated that there are more children living away from their families in care now than there were in residential schools.

Madam Speaker, the act applies to all Indigenous children with Section 35 rights, no matter where in Canada they reside. It speaks to the importance of reuniting children with their families and communities. It details the principle of the best interests of the child and requires primary consideration of the child's safety and well-being as well as preserving an ongoing relationships with family and the culture to which the child belongs.

Madam Speaker, the federal government has established mechanisms for Indigenous government organizations to become self-governing in child welfare. If there is no Indigenous child and family law in place, workers need to make "reasonable efforts" to keep the child within the

family or extended family and to place the child with an adult from a different Indigenous group or any other adult as a last resort. It also provides for ongoing reassessments, with specific timelines, to determine whether it's appropriate for a child placed outside the family to be reunited with them. All of this sounds good, but much depends on implementation and funding, both of which need to be sorted out.

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Madam Speaker, this is an area of historic conflict. I hope that with 1,000 Indigenous children in care in the NWT, Indigenous government organizations will lead the way in self-government in child and family services. I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mahsi.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCOME SECURITY IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. NORN: Mahsi cho, Madam Speaker. Today, I would like to talk about financial security and the high cost of living in the Northwest Territories. Last week, on Friday, February 28, 2020, the NWT Bureau of Statistics released a report on the state of financial security for residents of the NWT. The findings were based on the results of the 2019 NWT Community Survey. Overall, the results were pretty bleak, in my opinion, for many people across the territory.

Madam Speaker, 20 percent of households, that's one out of every five households across the NWT, have reported they had difficulties in making ends meet for their household expenses in terms of transportation, food, clothing, housing, and other expenses. The data also states that 23 percent of households reported that they were either "often" or "sometimes" worried about having enough money for food at any given time over the previous 12 months.

Madam Speaker, we as a Legislature need to start addressing these issues, and better sooner rather than later because, as I've said once already in a previous Member's statement, there are many folks across the NWT who live on very tight and fixed budgets. The results of this survey only confirm what I've said before.

Madam Speaker, there are no simple solutions to reducing the cost of living for our people. This is a multi-faceted issue that will need discipline and political will to properly address them and overcome them. This daunting issue will be addressed with a whole-of-government approach, starting first with the home, with prudent budgeting of household finances; followed by actions by local leaders, businesses, and us as legislators.

You've seen the like in news reports before, about the high cost of foods and stuff. I would love to see a show like the Price is Right come up here and to really highlight how much our food costs. I would like to see the Price is Right to go up to Tulita and say, "Oh, my god. There is a watermelon here. It cannot be \$40 for a watermelon," just to drive home the point that a lot of us are trying to make. It's just too much to make ends meet for a lot of our residents, and I am hoping we can do that.

In closing, Madam Speaker, our goals must be simple, measurable, and achievable: lower costs of living, keep people in the North, and aim for people to thrive and not just to survive. Mahsi cho, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SERVICE TO RESIDENTS OF NUNAKPUT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This morning, I woke up and I said, "Why, why am I here?" I am here, Madam Speaker, for my constituents in Nunakput and to make a difference across our territory. I am here for our elders, our youth, all residents in the territory and the Beaufort-Delta. I am here to serve Nunakput, Madam Speaker. I listen and try to make a difference in our constituents' lives, that we could try to make a change and help them with their tough tasks that they have ahead of them, which sometimes feel like mountains, so big that they can't change, but we are here to change it. Anyone who asks for help from us, we are here to serve. That is our job. We are here to serve. We are here to listen.

When you take a look back, the jobs that we lack, we have to stimulate our economy. We need jobs. We need housing. The cost of housing, rental scale, everything, that has to be looked at, lower cost of living, income support, elders' facilities so we can take care of our elders in our home communities, supporting our local governments to make their jobs easier and not stretching them so far that they cannot provide service.

I will do my job to hold this House and this government accountable, Madam Speaker. I will

hold them accountable, but I will work together with them to make a better NWT. We have to take a step back and look in the mirror, every one of us, and ask ourselves why we are here. We are here to work together to serve the people, and we are put in a position that we are blessed to be here, to serve all 33 communities across our great territory. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nunakput. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to recognize my husband, Jozef Carnogursky, today. He is here to visit me. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Madame la Presidente. I want to recognize my good friend Chris O'Brien, who splits his time between Yellowknife and Toronto. He and I filed the first and only successful request for an investigation under the Environmental Rights Act on April 22, 1991, into air pollution from Giant Mine. Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to welcome my beautiful wife, Jenny, and my son Joseph into the House today. I am so blessed to have them down here. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, replies to budget address (day 5 of 7). Member for Frame Lake.

Replies to Budget Address

MR. O'REILLY'S REPLY

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Madame la Presidente. The Member for Yellowknife North has set a high standard for the replies to the budget address, so I want to recognize his passion and insights. I'm not sure I can come anywhere close to that performance, but I do wish to encourage all my fellow regular MLAs to use this opportunity to set forth their views on the budget, our fiscal situation, and how to translate our priorities and mandate into action through this first budget of the 19th Assembly.

I will use my reply to the budget address to set out some thoughts on the following:

- A quick summary of the 2020-2021 budget;

- High-level observations on the process for the 2020-2021 budget;
- Comments on the fiscal strategy;
- What is not in the 2020-2021 budget; and
- Concluding remarks.

A summary of the 2020-2021 budget and fiscal context. The 2020-2021 budget is a refreshing change from the budgets and practices of the previous Assembly and Cabinet. Although the framework for this budget was set by the previous Assembly, there are no new cuts to programs and services to fund infrastructure. This budget is pretty much status quo, with only \$94 million of new spending, or about 5 percent of the total budget, most of the new spending is tied to matching federal funding and forced growth through increases arising from the recent collective agreements. I agree and can support most of the new spending in this budget including the following:

- Increased funding for mental health and new long-term care beds at the old Stanton hospital;
- More funding for the Arctic Energy Alliance for energy conservation and use of renewables;
- An increase in the funding for Environment and Natural Resources after continuous and devastating cuts of 10 percent over four year. This increased funding often comes from the federal government, but is welcome support for caribou and protected areas;
- Funding to turn the integrated case management pilot into a permanent program, which I strongly support;
- Creation of a specialized territorial support team to assist with youth mental health and additional funding for the successful Northern Distance Learning program;
- Negotiation of a co-management regime for offshore oil and gas, even if there is zero prospect and interest in this activity; and
- A small increase in funding for the NWT Housing Corporation with its growing gap in core housing needs across the Northwest Territories.

About the budget process, Madam Speaker, I can say that the relationship and negotiations with Cabinet over this budget have been cordial and respectful, a much different and welcome change from the last four years. The real crunch has yet to happen in terms of what is to be put forward in a supplemental appropriation to begin to deal with the mandate and the priorities of regular MLAs.

It was difficult to jump into main estimates without more detailed business plans this time around. MLAs were asked to approve millions of dollars of expenditures without adequate justification or explanation in some cases. I do look forward to an approach of four-year rolling plans that will allow greater transparency and accountability.

Some comments, now, Madam Speaker on the fiscal context. Despite the attempts by the Finance Minister to paint a picture of financial stability and sustainability, there are very dark clouds on the horizon. The Minister said that we will exceed the federal borrowing limit of \$1.3 billion by 2020-2021. The operating surpluses, which are required for spending on capital projects or infrastructure, will crash dramatically from \$203 million this year to only \$3 million in 2023-2024. This drop is due to declining revenues, and, in my view, over-spending on capital projects initiated by the last Cabinet, which put roads over people.

The Finance Minister has promised creativity, innovation, and systematic evaluation of programs and services. This will take time and extraordinary focus. It cannot possibly make up the fiscal shortfall, or make a complete strategy moving forward. Put simply, we need more revenues to continue to provide the current level of programs and services, let alone the promises made in the mandate. The Finance Minister has said we have \$25 million to work with to begin to make progress on the mandate over the next four years. That's only about a quarter of the new spending in the 2020-2021 budget alone. The Finance Minister has not shared a costing of the mandate items, despite having been asked that several times. What we do know is that each of the large infrastructure projects, Taltson expansion, the Slave Geological Province Road, and the Mackenzie Valley Highway, will cost a lot more than \$1 billion each. We have to stop fooling ourselves and the public that these can be done at the same time as we simply cannot afford them, even if the federal government gave us, or other potential partners, all the money. There would be lots of costs in simply managing these projects and the required O and M, as we have seen with the Stanton hospital with its ever-increasing operational costs, some of which are found in this budget, too.

What we do need, and I will continue to push for, is some realistic and detailed economic evaluations of the big three projects against other ways of investing public funds in terms of the number of jobs created, the location of those jobs, building of local capacity, how our labour force matches with job opportunities and other ways of more objectively examining value for money. If I had to choose between investing a billion dollars in the SGP road or Taltson expansion, and getting all of our housing out of core need for \$500 million, and

having 20 years of universal childcare, Madam Speaker, it's a no brainer. We would create more jobs, especially outside of Yellowknife, with an investment in housing and childcare, and help our residents to better participate in our economy. Our government needs more money. This was something that the last Cabinet refused to take seriously. We are in a financial and fiscal crunch now with too many big projects being promised, even with matching 75 percent federal funding. The GNWT 25 percent share still comes at a cost that stops, or slows down, other initiatives and investments, especially housing and diversifying our economy.

I pushed the Finance Minister to take the initiative to begin a serious public debate around revenue options and she seems ready to take up that challenge. We need to get the federal government to allow us to keep more, if not all, of our own source revenues to begin to build sound fiscal sustainability. An increase in our borrowing limit is only a partial and short-term solution. Again, we need to raise more money and get to keep it. It is a very serious problem when we raise more money from tobacco and alcohol than we get to keep from the extractive sector. Corporate taxes are a less than ideal way to capture revenues from non-renewable resources. Our one-time natural capital needs also be shared with future generations. A resource tax or capital tax should be seriously examined as a more equitable way of retaining the benefits of resource development. If you don't believe me on this point, look no further than the international expert hired by ITI, who evaluated our management of non-renewable resources and found we should be retaining more revenues. We also need to look at other ways of generating revenues including a high-income personal tax bracket, which other jurisdictions have added, including the federal government, reviewing the fees associated with the post-devolution resource management, raising tobacco taxes that were last increased in 2017, and other means. I welcome this public debate.

What is not in the 2020-2021 budget. I recognize that this budget is status quo and that the mandate will require additional funding, partly through supplementary appropriations. The budget address was virtually devoid of any discussion of the commitment to, and need for, additional resources to ensure completion of the ongoing Indigenous land rights negotiations, and implementation of the agreements already in place. To assist with these efforts, our government will also need to seriously move forward with implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. If we are to achieve more than the one agreement-in-principle at one of the negotiating tables in the last

Assembly, more resources and a fresh approach are needed.

There was no mention in the budget of the potential for benefits from the billion-dollar remediation project, here in Yellowknife, around Giant Mine, or the work required to reclaim the Norman Wells fields, or other areas such as Cantung Mine. The remediation economy is the equivalent of at least one of the big projects, and it won't cost us very much, if anything, to get this work by the federal government or the private sector, but we also have to work very hard to ensure that Northerners will benefit from that work. Of course, we must also put in place a proper post-devolution system to identify and manage environmental liabilities before they come back to this government and taxpayers. This is something the last Cabinet failed to do, as we have seen with the Cantung mine, Cameron Hills, and the rollback of mandatory financial security in the Public Land Act. The Finance Minister must stop this bleeding now, working with her Cabinet colleagues.

There is little to no mention of the untapped potential of arts and culture to diversify the economy. This is another no-brainer and there isn't even a whisper of it in the budget. Where is the promised arts strategy that should be used to help identify opportunities for investment and a supplementary appropriation that puts that into action?

There are many other commitments from the mandate and elsewhere that will require attention and investment, likely well beyond the \$25 million that is available under the current fiscal strategy. This includes addressing the municipal funding gap; completing the network of the single-window service centres in all our communities; more work to protect caribou habitat; building food security, including an increase to the Community Harvester Assistance Program; other food production initiatives; and last but not least, housing. Without affordable, suitable, and adequate housing, and 42 percent of our population does not have that, people cannot meaningfully participate in our economy.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the decisions of the last Cabinet and the majority of the last Assembly have clearly boxed us in, in terms of our fiscal situation and budgetary options. The cuts to programs and services to fund big infrastructure projects has pushed us closer than ever to the debt wall, resulting in more short-term borrowing and increased debt servicing costs. The infrastructure from the last Cabinet continues to lead to increased O and M costs and has generally failed to bring the anticipated benefits, whether it is the Mackenzie Valley fibre link that has not tied in communities, the failure to support tourism in Tuktoyaktuk, the

lack of northern workers on the Tlicho All-Season Road, or the deficiencies in the Stanton Territorial Hospital building.

I am pleased to see this Cabinet beginning to promote a more balanced approach to our mandate and this budget with its people-focus. We need to spend more on our basic needs, whether it is housing, healthcare, or education, for the long-term outcomes our citizens deserve, and find the resources to do that. This means more revenues and new fiscal arrangements with Ottawa.

I sincerely thank my Cabinet colleagues and their staff, and my committee colleagues, for much hard work in getting us to this point. I have the feeling that the chances for change, transformative change, are greater now than any other point during my time in this Assembly. Madam Speaker, I may actually vote in favour of this budget, which has not happened for quite a long time. Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Replies to the budget address (day 5 of 7). Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS' REPLY

MS. MARTSELLOS: Madam Speaker, I would like to do a short presentation on the budget address that was tabled by the honourable Caroline Wawzonek, the Minister of Finance, on February 25, 2020. First of all, this budget is status quo, with the vast majority of funds going to Yellowknife. I want to remind all Members, including Cabinet, of our 22 priorities, which included regional centres and smaller communities.

Madam Speaker, this budget focuses on all of the capital city of Yellowknife's needs and less on the regional centres and communities. The 2019-2023 Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories clearly outlined our priorities. The process was followed, yet, again, this 19th Assembly is leaving the people outside the capital without hope and future prospects for growth in a meaningful way. The 51 new positions for Stanton and the Integrated Case Management Group under Justice will be increased by two, which includes four permanent staff members, and all of the new positions designated for growth in other departments only in Yellowknife must all be looked at in a more strategic and objective manner. As an MLA, I am not going to approve this budget, especially the Integrated Case Management Group, unless two out of the four new positions that this budget is asking for are situated one in Fort Smith and one in Inuvik, respectively.

Madam Speaker, as an MLA and a strong businessperson with 50 years of business

experience, my main concern is the economy. I feel that this budget is not addressing how we are going to come out of deficit. Strong emphasis must be placed on the economy to advance our business sector in the exploration of diamonds, oil, tourism, and small business, to ensure that we have a strong economy so our people in the NWT can have hope and faith in their government. The Taltson expansion is probably the most beneficial green project that makes sense. With 75 percent of the funds coming from the federal government and with 25-percent input from our own Indigenous governments, it's a win-win situation that must be looked at seriously.

Madam Speaker, the total expenditure for this budget is \$1.9 billion. The majority of this budget is slated for the capital of Yellowknife. The ordinary Members on Cabinet should be more mindful of how Cabinet presents a budget of this sort when it affects the smaller communities and the regional centres outside of Yellowknife. Obviously, this did not happen.

A quote: "Self-government and self-determination are not possible in a society in which there is no set of criteria defining what behaviour and beliefs constitute acceptable expressions of leadership." Madam Speaker, when we get into the budget estimates, which we already have, and have to vote on the outcomes, we must keep in mind our mandate of inclusiveness, ensuring that the entire population of the NWT benefits from this budget. Changes to this budget must be made to reflect this. This is what the people of the NWT want. The majority of the NWT, the people of Thebacha riding, and the Indigenous people outside of Yellowknife must benefit from this budget and in future budgets from this day on. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Replies to the budget address (day 5 of 7). Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Thebacha.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 123-19(2): STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL P3 PARTNERSHIP

MS. MARTSELOS: Madam Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance. My first question is: since the Stanton P3 and the legacy, 100-bed, long-term unit for Yellowknife have crippled our government for moving forward, could the Minister tell me who makes up the Boreal Health partnerships?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Minister of Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As to the first part of the Member's comment, about being crippled, I would reply to simply say that this actually did come in on budget and that the project costs for construction were as expected, and that the contract costs are as expected. To the second half of the Member's question, Madam Speaker, the Boreal Partnership is made up of HOCHTIEF PPP Solutions, Bird Capital Limited, and BBGI Corporation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. MARTSELOS: Can the Minister tell us who owns the majority of shares of Dexterra, as well as where is the company based out of, and what the emergency number that is used by Stanton hospital staff after 5:00 p.m.?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Dexterra, I believe, is owned by a company named Fairfax Financial Holdings. They are based out of Ontario, for their corporate office. With respect to emergency numbers, those numbers are available to Stanton Territorial Hospital staff and, if there is some concern that the Member is raising on that, rather than having those numbers put here in the House, I will ensure that those numbers are, in fact, posted appropriately and communicated to staff in the hospital.

MS. MARTSELOS: I want the Minister of Finance to justify and explain to the people of Thebacha and the NWT how all the shortfalls in this territorial hospital are going to be dealt with and who is going to be paying for those shortfalls?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: A number of initiatives have been begun in the last few months as a response to the fact that there were some challenges with this building when it initially came online. It's always expected that there is going to be some difficulty with a building that is the size and complexity of Stanton Territorial Hospital. Indeed, this hospital is arguably one of if not the most complex building ever undertaken by the Northwest Territories government, certainly one of the most technical in terms of the kinds of equipment, so while we are cognizant that there have been challenges, there is work under way. There are committees that have been formed now between BHP and the GNWT, to ensure that partners are adequately addressing issues in a prompt manner. There is currently a senior executive committee that meets now to oversee the fixing of any difficulties or problems that arise. Assistance is being delivered by the Department of Infrastructure to the partners over at the hospital so that, again, there are adequate hands on deck, essentially, to make sure that things are being looked at. As for the payment, there is a very detailed schedule in the contract where, if there are issues that should have been delivered by the partner, then the partner has to

pay for that. There is contract monitoring to ensure, indeed, that, if there are performance issues that fall within the contract, then the payments that are being made regularly to the provider of services deducts that from their monthly payment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister of Finance. Final supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Madam Speaker, finally, I would like to address the mayor of Yellowknife's media statement of February 19, 2020. The new Stanton hospital tax bill for the amount of \$4.5 million is the highest taxed building in the NWT. The mayor of Yellowknife made a statement that she did not have to raise taxes because of a new assessed property value of the new Stanton hospital. My question is: as all monies out of public funds belong to the people of the NWT, are you comfortable as the Minister of Finance with this statement?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: We have a good partnership with the City of Yellowknife and with the mayor of Yellowknife, and I am confident that she was making every effort to explain to people who she represents how grants in lieu work and how taxes are paid by the Government of the Northwest Territories. We do not pay taxes. We pay a grant in lieu, and the grant in lieu supports the city when the Government of the Northwest Territories is using what would be municipal land that the municipality could otherwise garner tax-based revenue from. Instead, there is a grant in lieu that is paid for the use of that land and, obviously, for all of the various city-based services that the GNWT uses on the footprint of the hospital. I am confident that the grant-in-lieu policy has been applied appropriately and fairly for the City of Yellowknife, for Stanton, as it is to all of the tax-base communities across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister of Finance. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 124-19(2):
MUNICIPAL LAND TRANSFERS

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Lands. In regard to transferring Commissioner's land within city boundaries to the City of Yellowknife, what formal arrangements have been put in place at this time for this initiative and what are their timelines? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Minister of Lands.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The department has been meeting with

the city several times this past summer and most recently as of Monday, February 24, when I had the opportunity of meeting with the city as well as YK Dene First Nation. We have a working group in place that involves the city, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Lands, and E and I, and so we are working together on this issue. The department's goal is to have the process document done hopefully this year, and then we will work on transferring the lands in the future. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. CLEVELAND: This past weekend was the NWT Association of Communities AGM in Inuvik. Since long before the election of the 19th Assembly, the topic of Commissioner's land within the City of Yellowknife has definitely been a hot topic. What commitments were made at the AGM in regard to the transfer of Commissioner's land to municipalities?

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Yes. We did attend the NWTAC meeting, and there were no commitments or no questions asked from the association in regard to this issue, but I can tell this House and the public that we have had communications with the various tax-base communities on how we can move forward on this issue. This is very complex, and we are trying to work together.

MS. CLEVELAND: I am wondering if local Indigenous governments are supportive of land-transfer initiatives within the City of Yellowknife.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Like I said, last Monday, May 24th, I did attend the meeting with the City of Yellowknife and the YK Dene. In that conversation, in that meeting there, basically what I believe the conversation, what we heard, was that they were supportive of this as long as it does not infringe or interfere with the Dehcho Process.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake, final supplementary.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's my understanding that the City of Yellowknife requested a memorandum of understanding in partnership with the City of Yellowknife, local Indigenous governments, and the GNWT. Will the Minister be prepared to satisfy this request for a memorandum of understanding, committing to working together on land-transfer solutions? Thank you.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: An MOU may not be the necessary document or process we need to do moving forward, so what we are doing is we are working with the municipality to come up with a document that will ensure, as we move forward 10, 20, 30, or 40 years down the road. It's going to

meet the needs of the residents of Yellowknife and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 125-19(2):
PRIVATE CANNABIS RETAILERS

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice, regarding cannabis. Madam Speaker, we find ourselves here, a year and a half after cannabis legalization, with the promise being, after one year, we would have private cannabis stores in the Northwest Territories or at least be along the road. My question is: when will we see our first private cannabis store in the Northwest Territories?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Minister of Justice.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I acknowledge that there certainly has been a delay since even, I believe, the date that I provided to the House with respect to some aspects of the process. In order to have a cannabis store, there was first an RFQ, request for qualifications, that was sent out this summer, and then there needed to be an RFP, a request for proposals. That process was due out in January. I acknowledge that it's now not January. I am assured that that will be complete and that that will be public this month. I will certainly ensure that I am doing my best to follow up on that date. At that point, how quickly private individuals or private companies are able to develop their progress per store will be in the hands of those individuals or companies. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR. JOHNSON: I appreciate the Minister of Justice's response that we will see those RFPs out this month, and I will encourage my constituents who are interested to apply to that process. I had a constituent attend the uptown liquor store the other day, the only place to buy cannabis legally in town, and there was, in fact, no cannabis there. My question for the Minister of Finance: why, 18 months after legalization, do we still not have our procurement process in order?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: There have actually not been very many stock outages since January of 2019, though there was indeed some delay recently. I am told that the resupply did come in last Friday and that it is something that we are continuously monitoring. Staff from the Department of Finance are involved in ensuring that the supply is regular and, indeed, I believe met with one of the repliers just last week. It is certainly our hope that, as we continue that relationship, that there should

be hopefully fewer challenges for those seeking to avail themselves.

MR. JOHNSON: I want to express the issue here is that when someone attends a legal cannabis store and there is no cannabis, they go to the black market, which I can assure the Minister of Justice is still very much alive and well in the Northwest Territories. That means we are allowing criminals to continue to sell cannabis as well as not gaining the tax revenue needed from this. My question to the Minister of Justice is: what is currently happening to find new sources that can meet the demand?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: The Northwest Territories Liquor and Cannabis Commission is tasked with identifying new suppliers, where they're available. It is a challenge that's being faced by our other territorial and provincial partners. It's one that we'll continue to talk to them about their own practices and see if there are options in our procurement that we haven't considered. As I say, I am alive to the ultimate impacts of not having supply and what that does. Again, it's a fairly new system across Canada, so hopefully, as all the provinces and territories work that through, that we will see a general improvement to the legal supply to all provinces and territories, including ours.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions, Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 126-19(2)
ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECTION
OF PRIVACY ACT IMPLEMENTATION

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Madame la Presidente. In my statement earlier today, I talked about how we have some of the best access to information, protection, and privacy legislation in the world, maybe. The problem is it hasn't been implemented; it hasn't been brought into force. I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice to explain what the next steps are with regard to bringing these changes to ATIP into legal effect and when that might happen. Merci, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Minister of Justice.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have some good news. That is that the majority of provisions are expected to be brought forward, or brought into force, in the fall, this fall of 2020. That would include the changes that are being made to reduce some of the fees. With respect to changes that are going to be made that will impact on smaller communities and municipalities, Madam Speaker, a working group has been formed with representatives of the small communities to ensure that they are part of the process to develop those regulations. That working

group now has set dates when they will meet, and as they meet the next stages will be developed in conjunction with that process. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I want to thank the Minister for that great news. Unfortunately, it looks like it's going to take about one and a half years to finally get the fees reduced, maybe even closer to two or three years from when the "what we heard" report came up. That's still good news. There are a number of areas that were identified in the "what we heard" report, such as a training, identification of classes of records, that do not require an ATIP application. Can the Minister give us a sense of the priorities in terms of that work and when it's going to be implemented, as well?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: The training and the guidelines, resource materials for all the different departments, that is either has been or is being developed right now, with some training due to begin, I understand, in April. As to the specific training schedule, of which departments, I don't know that offhand. I will commit to providing that to the Member as I can identify it. I can say that, certainly, reducing the fees has been a priority, and ensuring that movement to provide better access to information, there is one area of documents that will be identified, so they can be available without having to go through the process, that is also a priority that we will be working on.

MR. O'REILLY: I want to thank the Minister for that reply. Back in June of 2019, the then-Minister of Finance read out in the House a series of proposed decreases in fees, and I mentioned those in my Member's statement. I'm not going to run through them again, but is that what the Minister going to do with the regulations that are coming forward as early as fall of this year?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: I did take your full note, as the Member was speaking earlier, I can't confirm that those are indeed the changes that are being contemplated to reduce the fees.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Frame Lake. No? Okay. Oral questions, Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 127-19(2)
NEW FEDERAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
LEGISLATION

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. As I mentioned in my statement, new federal legislation sets minimum standards for the treatment of children in care. These standards are meant to ensure that Indigenous children grow up

immersed in their language, culture, and community. My question for the Minister is: how does our child and family services legislation align with the new federal legislation? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife Centre. Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON. DIAN THOM: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Child and Family Service Act and the federal Bill C92, and the child and family services in the Northwest Territories act is in line with the principles of the federal act. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. GREEN: My more specific question is: whether the order in which children will be placed, if they are taken into care, is that exactly the same order that exists in our Child and Family Services Act?

HON. DIAN THOM: Yes, that's correct. The Northwest Territories Child and Family Services Act and the federal act recognize the need to deliver culturally appropriate services by decisions concerning the children are made in the best interests of the child, taking into consideration cultural values and practices. Also, each community has a role in supporting and promoting the best interests of the children, and the wellbeing of the families and the communities. Yes. They are in line, and some of the principles that we have are in line.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that answer. What are GNWT's expectations with respect to accessing funding associated with the new federal law?

HON. DIAN THOM: The Member is correct in her statement. She did recognize that the implementation and the funding has not been worked out. We are still in the process of waiting for the federal government to have a meeting. There was a meeting scheduled, an FTP for last month, and it has been rescheduled. Although we recognize that the legislation is place, we still need to work on what does that mean for the Northwest Territories.

DEPUTY SPEAKER. Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre, final supplementary.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you to the Minister for that answer. One of the things this means for the NWT, and for all provinces and territories, is that Indigenous government organizations have an opportunity to become responsible for child and family services in their own jurisdictions. What role does the Minister see the GNWT having with respect to helping Indigenous government organizations take on this responsibility? Thank you.

HON. DIANE THOM: The Member is correct. The child and family services, you look at the children who are in place, and we have 99 percent of Indigenous children in place in care. Right now, within the Child and Family Services Act, the Indigenous and government organizations can enact their own child and family service law for their citizens. Right now, we have only one Indigenous group in the Northwest Territories who has reached out to our department, and is interested, and looking at what does that mean for their Indigenous groups. They have the option to enter into a process that would have their laws prevail over territorial law and the federal law. It is in our best interests to work with the Indigenous groups in the Northwest Territories as the majority of the children in care are in our care, and we would like to build on that partnership with Indigenous groups. If they can come to the table and do a better job than we are, then let's absolutely entertain that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Hay River South.

QUESTION 128-19(2):
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF SENIORS
IN LONG-TERM CARE

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The mental and physical wellbeing of our seniors is very important to me, and I would like to ask the Minister of Health: what process in place does her department have to ensure that the workers would engage the residents in the community to assist in visiting the seniors and helping out? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON. DIANE THOM: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do want to start, and I will get to the Member's question. I do want to recognize that enabling seniors to age in place with dignity is one of our priorities. If you look at the mandate priorities, it is a partnership, not only with the Health and Social Services, but also the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the department of housing. If you look at the three objectives, number one, we need to increase supports so that seniors can stay in their own homes and communities. That's number one. Number two is fun actions that can enhance inclusion, safety, and remove community barriers. The other one is to help protect seniors from abuse or neglect. These are some of the areas that we are looking at for our mandate, but in addition to that, I do want to talk a little bit about what the Member's asking for, what are we doing. We have a variety of activities that are in our regions, and I do want to speak about a couple of them. We have adult day programs, including the

elders in motion exercises, meal program, meals on wheels, and other recreation and social activities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: In the wintertime, many of the seniors are kind of locked up. Not locked up, but they're in there in the facilities. They don't have, really, an ability to get out on their own. I am just wondering: does your department have anything in place to allow that to happen, to take them outside the building during the wintertime so they can get a little fresh air and also a little sightseeing?

HON. DIANE THOM: There are some limitations in delivering some of the programs for a variety of reasons, lack of suitable space or lack of transportation for elders. Every region is different. You look at some of the regions. For example, I'll use in the Beaufort-Delta. We have a very strong elder day program where the elders come from their homes into the elders' day program, and they have a variety of activities. There are supports in place. However, there are limitations. I understand the Member's concern about the lack of possibly transportation or whatever the case may be.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: I know the Minister will say yes to this one. We have a 48-bed slated for Hay River, and I think there is one for Inuvik, as well. One of the issues that I find is that, when I was visiting the other day, I noticed the handy van was sitting there, covered in snow. I asked the person, "Do they use it?" They said, "Not really because to take people out, it was slippery, and it was hard to get them in the van." One thing I suggest is that with this new 48 facility is that if they could have a little something off to the side where they can have the van parked so the people can go right in from the building into the van where it's warm and take them out. Kind of like they have for the ambulances. I would just ask the Minister if she would consider that in the design of the new 48-bed facility for Hay River and for Inuvik?

HON. DIANE THOM: I say yes to the concept and the idea because I feel it is important. I feel like if there are many ways that we can get our elders from their facility into their community, it is very important. I also do want to remind the Member that the 48-bed facility in Hay River and Inuvik is still through the design process, so there is an opportunity for our department to work with the Department of Infrastructure to have a look at the designs and to be able to see what works for the communities. I mean, we need to build these facilities so that they work for our elders and for our communities. If that's one way of getting the elders out into the community, then, of course, that's something we would look at.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Member for Hay River South, final supplementary.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's responses, and I look forward to working with her, and I have no further questions. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Monfwi.

QUESTION 129-19(2):
HOUSING FOR SENIORS AGING IN PLACE

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Madam Speaker. [English translation not available.] ...and families to identify gaps in existing resources. Madam Speaker, question to NWT Housing Corporation: what are the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's programs available for seniors so they can maintain their own homes? Masi, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you. The programs that are offered for the seniors to age in place, we do have a safe program. We do have the accessibility to accommodate the limited mobilities for the seniors. Also, we have constructed seniors' complexes throughout the Northwest Territories, and trying to support the seniors to age in place. I don't know all the programs off the top of my head, but I can provide the Member with the programs that we do have listed. Also, working in conjunction with my colleagues, that we do have a set programming to address that, to have our seniors age in place, and the number of programs that are out there throughout the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR. LAFFERTY: Again, I would like to touch on the support agencies and families to identify gaps in existing resources as part of our mandate. We know that the cost of airfare into our isolated communities is quite high across the North and my region, about three communities I represent. If any work has to be done on a senior's home in an isolated community, those travel costs are often passed on to the senior on top of the actual cost of the work involved. Are there any Housing Corporation programs specific to having a certified oil burning mechanic to visit all our communities so that they can service the furnaces for our most vulnerable seniors?

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation created the seniors aging-in-place program to help seniors improve the durability of their home and to make energy-efficient retrofits every year. It is an easy program to access and seniors can apply for this every year. There is also a co-payment portion for seniors who make only low to moderate income. Seniors can also access

the SAFE program, the emergency repair program, to access up to \$10,000 per year for urgent emergency repairs, such as furnace failure. Seniors can also have their furnace maintained under the preventative maintenance program, up to \$3,000 per year. As for seniors' complexes, I just really would like to stress that we have completed seniors' complexes throughout the territory, and we are now just looking at one in the Sahtu that is just completed. We've constructed five of them.

MR. LAFFERTY: The Minister hasn't really answered my question about if they had specific certified burner mechanics visiting the isolated communities. I'll just move on to the next question, because these are tough questions that the department should be answering, especially for our elders in the communities. A couple of months ago, I had an 82-year-old senior constituent out of Behchoko who had furnace issues, and this was broadcast on the CBC, as well, when we were in the middle of a two-week-long cold spell. Apparently, her furnace had not been serviced for a few years. In the end, Polar Ice from Yellowknife stepped up to the plate and fixed her furnace for free. Masi to Polar Ice for doing such an awesome job for this elder. Would the Minister consider implementing a pilot project so that every senior in our communities can have their furnace serviced on an annual basis as a safety precaution, as well?

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: My apologies to the Member that I didn't answer the last question about the burner mechanics going into the communities. We do have contractors who go out and they do work on the function of the homes, looking at the water heaters and the furnaces, and making sure that they are up and they are functioning. I'm not familiar with the contractors who go into the isolated communities, but also I just wanted to inform the Member that we do have the SAFE program that is accessible for the furnace and upkeep of them and to make sure that they are maintained, and it's up to \$10,000. I would encourage the residents in his riding to contact the Housing Corporation further to complete the application.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Member for Monfwi.

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Madam Speaker. The Minister is referring to an application-based process, and a lot of our elders obviously are struggling, sometimes because of individuals living in their household. It's based on household income, so most times, they don't qualify, unfortunately. When it comes to two weeks of cold spell, this is a very urgent matter that we need to deal with on an annual basis, to service their furnaces, especially the vulnerable elders. I've touched on Polar Ice as a contractor going to the community, on their own services. Could we have something similar to that

as a pilot project in our communities, not just my Tlicho communities, but other isolated communities in the Northwest Territories? I believe this is, indeed, an asset that we should be utilizing, having those individuals qualified to service the furnaces. Madam Speaker, masi.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: I am interested in looking at that, actually looking at our application process. I have gotten feedback that it is quite difficult for the residents of the Northwest Territories to access our programs. I would like to go forward and encourage that initiative and that suggestion from the Member. It's something that I will work towards, and I would like to have a conversation with my department to see how we can initialize that and work with that initiative going forward throughout the Northwest Territories and make sure that our elders are getting the services that they need. If it's just a simple application process that is keeping them from accessing our programs, I would really like to connect the LHO housing managers and the clients, that we are there and we are able to get the applications done immediately, but I will be working with the Member going forward. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Monfwi.

MR. LAFFERTY: I believe that's my fifth question, now, Madam Speaker. I just want to say I look forward to departmental correspondence on this particular, very important, matter in my region. When can we see this happening? Masi.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Going forward, looking at this initiative, I would like to hopefully be able to get back into the communities, hopefully, I want to commit in July, that I would like to look at this and then going forward and looking at the need for the rest of the Northwest Territories and working with the Member, also. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

QUESTION 130-19(2):
HOUSING FOR SENIORS WITH MOBILITY
ISSUES

MR. NORN: Mahsi cho, Madam Speaker. My question here is for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Just to supplement what my colleague from Monfwi was asking about seniors and mobility-restricted people, my questions are regarding people with no land tenure in our communities.

Can the Minister advise if there are any programs available to seniors or people with restricted

mobility, if there are any programs available for them in terms of mobility access? Mahsi cho.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to touch on the first issue, which was the land tenure process. I know that it does hinder a lot of our applicants going forward in accessing the programs that we have. Right now, our department is looking at our policies, and we're wanting to look forward to see how we could work around the hindrance of having the land tenure issue burden our application process and having our clients access their entitlement to the programs that we offer.

Looking at the wheelchair access, we do have funding that is available. It is the SAFE program, and I would encourage the Member to work with me so we can look at these programs and distribute them accordingly, to make sure that we are able to increase the number of seniors who are able to age in place.

Also, the accessibility is starting to become a huge situation that is identified out there, that we need to make our units and our homes more accessible for people who are in need of these programs. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR. NORN: Thank you to the Minister for the response. Just judging from what was just said, outside the SAFE program, there are no other programs available for residents who have no land tenure in their homes? Is that correct?

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Sorry, I should have been more clear, but we do have the CARE Mobility Program, the SAFE Program, the CARE Major and the CARE Minor, and they do come with forgivable loans that are established and set in those programs that are available.

MR. NORN: I have one last question for the Minister. Is there any appetite to change this policy to open up more programs for our residents with no land tenure?

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Going forward with the programs that are accessible for the seniors, we can have them access all three of them going forward, and it's per applicant. I would like to meet with the Member so I can give him the programs that we do have for seniors, and I can provide him with a clearer understanding of what those programs entail.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 131-19(2):
PROTECTED AREAS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Madame la Presidente. My questions are for the Minister of Lands. I know he made a statement earlier today about the Conservation Network Gathering, with a different hat on, but I would just like to know what the status of the Edehzhie proposed protected area is? Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Minister of Lands.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have been in communications with DFN and their planning committee, and we have been corresponding through letters on some issues that we are trying to work out. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I want to thank the Minister for that. I am kind of putting him on the spot, but that is his job. I would like to know if he could be a little bit more particular or give us some more specifics about what these issues are. Look, this proposed protected area has been in process for years. The feds, as I understand it, are ready to go. They have the surface of the area that is going to be protected as a national wildlife area. The feds are ready to invest. I understand the community has lined up some private donors to set up a trust to hire guardians and so on. What is the problem? The problem seems to be our government not transferring the subsurface, so can the Minister tell us, give us more specifics?

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: This is actually a very complicated file because it involves EIA, Executive and Indigenous Affairs, and Lands, and DFN, and we are trying to work with them to get a clear understanding of the process, the big process, of how we are dealing with all issues with the Dehcho First Nations. Right now, this is where we are working on it. We have been corresponding through letters. As well, the Premier has already met with the grand chief about a month ago, I believe, or a month and a half ago, to start the negotiations again.

MR. O'REILLY: Life is complicated, but this is a simple one. This is a win for us all. Just transfer the subsurface lands. Get this done and over with. Here's a great way to show some respect and start to build a better working relationship with the Dehcho First Nations. When will this government transfer the subsurface and allow this protected area to be established and get guardians on the ground working?

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: As much as it sounds like it's that easy, it is not that easy. It's a very

complicated process. It's about process, and we need to do it right. We need to work with them, and we need a clear understanding of the overall picture. Right now, I cannot make a commitment. I know it's in my riding, or it's actually in my colleague's from the Deh Cho. The other riding, Nahendeh, is part of the Deh Cho, and I have heard from leadership. They have talked to me about this, as well, but we want to make sure we do it right.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Madame la Presidente. I want to thank the Minister for that. Look, this is a very long, drawn-out process. The boundaries have gone through a lot of discussion, negotiation. Any areas of even medium mineral potential were carved out of this area. The community wanted to protect the Willow River down to the Deh Cho. Even that area, the canyon, was carved down to a very small area. The problem seems to be this government is not moving forward. Look, this is a great way that we can start off on a new foot, better relationship, with our Indigenous governments. When is this government going to transfer the subsurface and get this deal done? Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: As I have tried to say here in the House, it's a three-party process. It's the federal government, us, and DFN. I understand that DFN and the federal government have agreed to this area right now. Again, I am not saying we do not agree with it, but it's about the process. The whole process needs to be addressed, and we need clear understanding of where we are going ahead of this. Again, this is a Cabinet issue, and we are trying to work with them. We have reached out to them in correspondence. The Premier has already met with the grand chief, and we are starting that process. What I will say is we will continue to work on this process to get it resolved. The timeframe, I cannot make a commitment on that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Thebacha.

QUESTION 132-19(2):
GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance tried to explain the grant in lieu. The grant in lieu is the same concept as taxes. Am I correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member. Minister of Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Madam Speaker, yes. Thank you. It's comparable insofar as the government does not pay property taxes the same way a private resident or private industry would. It is a way of compensating municipalities for the use of those properties. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MS. MARTSELOS: One hundred and forty million dollars for the City of Yellowknife for the 35-year period for grants in lieu/taxes, is this not an extra expense?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: I apologize. I am not sure I know what numbers this Member is referencing, so I am at a bit of a disadvantage on this particular point. Grants in lieu, there is a very careful policy, a detailed policy, that the government uses to establish what is owed to municipalities under the grants in lieu. It is a process that uses independent assessors to identify the proper amounts. It's something that is paid to all communities. It's paid to all communities, and it's budgeted for, and so there really should not be long-term surprises in the course of grants in lieu. It's an important aspect of maintaining our partnerships and our funding to communities when we are using the resources of those communities and using up the land that would otherwise be available for them to have own-source revenues.

MS. MARTSELOS: Is the Finance Minister comfortable in defending a flawed agreement/contract with regard to the P3 of the Stanton hospital?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: The Stanton Territorial Hospital is a world-class facility. It is going to provide an opportunity for residents of the Northwest Territories, all residents of the Northwest Territories, to access services that would have otherwise not been available to us. While we acknowledge that there have been some challenges in the early, very early, stages of the roll-out of this very large and complex building, I am confident that those services are going to be here and to provide for all residents of the Northwest Territories. The P3 process for the Stanton Territorial Hospital was subject to quite rigorous auditing and quite rigorous review, and I am confident that it will, in the course of time, provide the right services and the best possible services to the residents of the Northwest Territories and that the reviews will be ongoing over the years to ensure that fact.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Madam Speaker, the Minister of Finance stated that the P3 for Stanton project came in on budget. Do you as Finance Minister truly believe this is a correct statement?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: The capital planning for the project was, as I understand, \$350 million, and that is indeed in the end the capital cost for construction. Now, the contract is now valued at an additional \$751 million over the course of time. Every five years, there can be some adjustments made, but those adjustments are made with the partners and with all partners involved. Again, not with any surprises. I believe a very detailed and lengthy public process was offered for a technical briefing to the committee. The public was invited. That was put onto Facebook; it was made very open and accessible to the members of all of the Northwest Territories to ask hours of questions to some of the lead individuals involved in terms of designing that contract, implementing the contract, and providing services at the hospital. I believe, in fact, that those several hours' worth of review and briefings are still available through a link through the Legislative Assembly website. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 133-19(2):
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR
MUNICIPAL LAND TRANSFERS

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our job here is to be legislators and to debate policy, and I am consistently frustrated that I find myself getting into the implementation and the operations of our departments. Earlier today, I heard the Minister of Lands commit that the land within municipal boundaries, there is a working group in place; hopefully, within a year, we have a process document; and then after that, we may see the land transferred. Unfortunately, I have to ask questions of every Minister to ensure that this is happening, so my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs: is the Minister willing to enter into an MOU with the Department of Lands, Executive and Indigenous Affairs, the City of Yellowknife, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the heart of that MOU is that the land within municipal boundaries will be transferred? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This situation with a land transfer happening within a municipal boundary is a quite complex situation in that there are a lot of parties at the table that we would have to work with, going forward, and consult with. Right now, the department is not in favour of entering into an MOU, to be honest. There is a lot of consideration to be thought through, looking at the land transfer

and the affected parties and what is going to be coming along with that transfer, and looking at that transfer and what is going to be available to the City of Yellowknife, to the YKDFN, and the affected parties that are there. Looking for a thorough assessment, I'd have to be working closely with my colleague for the Department of Lands, the Minister of Lands, and working with the City of Yellowknife and YKDFN. Those relationships have already been established, so going forward, we are speaking about this process. I'd really like to stress that the transfer is quite complex. It's not something that can easily be completed. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR. JOHNSON: I am well aware that there are complexities in the implementation of any policy, but there is clear policy direction from the legislative branch that this be done. It is as simple as the Minister providing a ministerial directive to their department to devolve the lands, and then the department figures out the logistics. In the meantime, we have the City of Yellowknife's plan being required to be approved by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and any revisions, a process that is taking too long. Will the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs commit to removing the requirement of her approval while this process is ongoing?

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: My apologies to my colleague. I'm not in favour of removing our abilities, of myself as Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, that this is happening within the municipal boundary. We do have a lot of consultations to be completed within the timeframe. We also have to consider that the transfer that is happening, that all parties at the table are, I don't want to use the words "in agreement," but I really want to stress the word "consultation." We do have ongoing land claims that have not been settled within this area, as well. I would really like to be mindful that this is a very delicate process and that it does involve legalities. Looking at this process, we are working closely with the stakeholders and closely with my colleague, the Minister of Lands. I would just like to really stress that it is a very complicated situation, and it's not as easy as it could be done signing papers and the transfer is complete. We do have to really concentrate on a lot of the scenarios that do come with them. I don't want to identify them, because it is a very complex situation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Monfwi.

QUESTION 134-19(2):
RELEASE OF NAMES OF THOSE INVOLVED IN
RCMP DRUG OPERATIONS

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Madam Speaker. [Translation] I'd like to ask a question regarding the Department of Justice. Sometimes, we are thankful to the RCMP when people are busted for drugs and that drugs don't go into the community, so we know what they are facing regarding the RCMP. I'm going to ask her a question. [End of translation]

There were several drug busts over the last few months here in the Northwest Territories, and in our communities, as well. I would like to send kudos and congratulate and also be thankful to the RCMP "G" Division for stopping these illegal drugs from entering the North.

When the drug bust occurred in Hay River a couple of months back, there were only three names released to the public out of the nine who were actively involved. I would just like to know the process from the Department of Justice, working with the RCMP "G" Division. What is the process of releasing these assailants or criminals who were all involved in a drug bust so we can have this publicly released so people are aware that these are people who are heavily involved with drugs? I just want to know the process, Madam Speaker. Masi.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Monfwi. Minister of Justice.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When an individual is arrested and charged, it is within the decision-making of the RCMP whether or not to release the name. I can't take a role in terms of making a choice or directing their operations, although I am confident that, when appropriate, when there are no other factors of safety or other ongoing investigations, they do generally release those names by way of a media release quite promptly. When an individual is detained by the RCMP in the course of a program or in the course of another investigation, if they are detained but released without charge, that individual is just that; they are not charged. There can be any number of reasons why somebody might be arrested or detained at the same time as others. If the RCMP determine that they do not have the legal authority to hold them or charge them, then nor would it be appropriate for them to be releasing their name. I expect that that may be a source of frustration when it is not known as to whether or not there is a certain number of people who have been arrested and why they are not all being named, but it's, in fact, of course, because not all of them have been charged under the investigation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR. LAFFERTY: I understand that they may not have been charged, but they were involved. When the drug bust happened, there were nine of them. You know, when there was a person of interest from the RCMP in Alberta just recently, they

released the names of two individuals. This is, I would say, similar. I would ask the Minister of Justice if she is willing to sit down with the RCMP "G" Division commanding officer and seek out if there is any way that we can provide those names to the general public. My constituents, I want to protect them, and with those kinds of names, we should be releasing those to the community so they are aware of the drug traffickers coming in from the South, or even from the North, bringing illegal drugs to our communities. We need to put a stop to that. Could the Minister meet with the RCMP "G" Division chief commanding officer simply to ask those questions, if it's possible?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: We're fortunate that we have a very positive working relationship with the RCMP. We do meet quite regularly with the commander of the "G" Division, and so I would have no difficulty making a commitment to raise the concerns on behalf of the communities of Monfwi in terms of stemming any tide of drugs reaching those communities. I would also note for the Member that the Minister does have policing priorities that are put out every year, every spring, and indeed it's my intention this year to reach out, and have begun the process of reaching out, to communities to ensure that the policing priorities that I issue are reflective of the concerns of the communities. I will speak to the Member further to ensure that policing priorities take into consideration the concerns and the issues that are being raised from these communities.

MR. LAFFERTY: A lot of our communities do not have a RCMP detachment, and even my region, there are two communities that do not have an RCMP detachment. I fear for the communities, so I am glad the Minister is willing to meet with the chief commanding officer. I am hoping it's sooner than later. Winter roads are open, and all-weather road construction through Whati is happening. As soon as the Minister meets with the chief commanding officer, I would ask the Minister if she could provide the latest update on their discussion on this particular very important matter in my region.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: I will certainly be keeping the Member up to date as I have conversations with the RCMP. I also believe that the RCMP would be themselves happy to engage directly with some of the committees of this House and to have that relationship about their operations, which is not within my area of responsibility. As for community safety going forward, that is a concern to the Department of Justice. There are a lot of different tools that can be used to increase and enhance community safety and community participation in the justice system, and I will continue to work towards those goals over the course of the Assembly.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister of Justice. The time for oral questions has now expired. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to Commissioner's address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, reports of standing and special committees. Item 15, tabling of documents. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 46-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 3-19(1): TRACKING POST-SECONDARY STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MR. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table the following document "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 3-19(1), Tracking Post-Secondary Student Accomplishments." Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, motions. Item 18, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 30-19(2), Main Estimates 2020-2021; Tabled Document 43-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2020-2021, with the Member for Hay River South in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. NORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Committee would like to consider Tabled Document 30-19(2), Main Estimates 2020-2021.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Norn. We will proceed with that item after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): I will call the committee back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 30-19(2), Main Estimates 2020-2021. Does the Minister of Justice have any opening remarks?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you. I am here to present the 2020-2021 Main Estimates for the Department of Justice.

Overall, the department's estimates propose an increase of just under \$7.4 million or 5.8 percent over the 2019-2020 main estimates. These estimates support our fiscal objectives to prioritize responsible and strategic spending while matching the modest expected revenue growth over the coming year.

Highlights of these proposed estimates include:

- \$465,000 to develop a gun and gang violence strategy for the Northwest Territories, including funding for targeted risk-based interventions within our communities. This was made possible through a multi-year federal funding agreement with Canada. In this instance, we were able to leverage an opportunity for federal funding to address the needs of the NWT for increased youth support while also supporting a federal initiative;
- \$827,000 in ongoing funding to continue the integrated case management program. This is an increase of \$263,000 from the 2019-2020 pilot project funding, and that will provide stability to the program, based upon an evaluation of the program's staffing needs. The integrated case management approach ensures that residents with complex needs can better access GNWT services across the social-envelope, from housing to income support, while identifying barriers within government, in order to support system-wide changes to how government provides services. We have received positive preliminary results from a third-party program evaluation about the impact this service approach has on the residents it serves, and I am looking forward to seeing how those lessons learned can contribute to shaping GNWT service delivery as a whole;
- \$5.6 million in forced growth, primarily relating to collective bargaining increases and increases to the RCMP Territorial Police Service Agreement; and
- a \$240,000 investment for community-based victim services organizations, that will provide additional support to enhance the critical services they provide to survivors of crime within our communities.

These estimates continue to support the priorities of the 19th Legislative Assembly by:

- working with the RCMP to ensure that all 33 communities in the Northwest Territories have policing priority action plans in place, that are developed in partnership with community leadership, that are based on the specific needs of each community;

- supporting community justice committees in the development of alternatives to the criminal justice system, such as diversion programs, community service, and crime-prevention programs;
- making ongoing improvements to corrections programming to address the root causes that lead an individual to crime, integrate Indigenous culture and traditions, and support inmate reintegration back into their communities; and
- finalizing the transition of the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre in Hay River to a therapeutic community model, to ensure that participants in the program have person-centred care and much-needed support to turn their lives around.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chair. I would be happy to answer any questions of the committee.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Does the Minister of Justice wish to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Yes, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce her witnesses?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right, I have Charlene Doolittle. She is the deputy minister. On my left, I have Mandi Bolstad, director of corporate services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): We will proceed to the review, beginning with the Department of Justice. I will now open the floor to general comments on the Department of Justice details. If there are no comments, does the committee agree to proceed to the detail contained in the tabled document?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Committee, we will defer the departmental summary and review the estimates by activity summary, beginning with community justice and policing, starting on page 262, with the information item on page 265. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister just refresh our memory about the program detail, protection against family violence? What does that fund pay for? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe what the Member is making inquiries about is funding that is provided to the YWCA of the Northwest Territories. They are one of the designated authorities for assisting individuals under the Protection Against Family Violence Act, and they can support people in the community who are seeking an emergency protection order to seek the protection order. Sorry, Mr. Chair. I realize I had flipped inadvertently a page ahead.

Yes, protection against family violence includes that. It also includes, Mr. Chair, the access to funding that is provided for the A New Day program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the Minister for that. Can the Minister tell us whether there has ever been review of the emergency protection orders or whether one is planned to determine how effective they are and how they can be made more effective? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is currently, in fact, an evaluation underway of that program, and if we can, we will endeavour to provide the deadline of when to expect that back; if not imminently, then I would commit to providing details as to when we are expected to have that report back. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the Minister for providing that information and for committing to giving us detail on timing. My second question has to do with the A New Day program. Can the Minister give us an idea of current uptake in that program? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In 2019-2020, there were 16 registrations completed and then two individuals who went through the entire curriculum. I would just want to note, Mr. Chair, that, although registrations over the last few years have formally gone down in terms of sheer numbers, the registration process has become somewhat more rigorous. If the Member is comparing year over year, there will be some significant appearance of a drop, but it's not simply a lack of uptake; it may be due to other factors. Similarly, I would note then that, as far as completions, although the ratio of individuals

registered to completed is seemingly quite low, there can be individuals who go quite a ways through or who do different parts and simply decide not to complete, who may nevertheless have still received quite a benefit from the program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As a Member of the 18th Assembly, I spent many hours talking about the A New Day program in this Chamber. I recognize that it was reformatted a while ago to be what it is today and it's difficult to look at a long-term comparison, but how about the 2018-2019 year? How many people registered and how many people finished? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In 2018-2019, there were 39 registrations and eight individuals shown as having completed. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Yes, thank you. Does the Minister have any insight into why there has been a drop-off in both registrations and completions year over year? I realize it's a very small sample, but are there any thoughts to why the program has less uptake than it used to, even a year ago? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I had indicated earlier, I am aware that there has been some change in terms of the registration process and that, whereas before anyone who may have dropped in could have simply written their name down and been noted as having registered, now there is a more rigorous expectation that someone who wishes to take the program does need to formally register themselves. As such, that may account for some of the drop in numbers. I'm certainly hesitant to entirely ascribe that to the drop in numbers, since it is, as the Member has noted, a small sample and a short period of time over which to observe the change; but there is some explanation for that.

As for completions, Mr. Chair, that is more difficult to say. I don't have a specific answer. The numbers have never been high in terms of the completions; indeed, I don't have a ratio, or a calculator in front of me to do it, but the ratio of showing completions to registrations has always been low. For example,

looking back at 2016-2017, we had one of the higher numbers of what then were considered registrations at 48, but still only 10 completions, so the formal completion rate has always been fairly low. While I think that is something that the department will have to consider, that is not the entire picture of the benefit that this program is providing to the people who go through it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering what efforts are made to promote this program to the potential client group, or whether the registrations now come through mandated appearances via the courts. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, I will commit to looking back with our partner, the John Howard Society, who is delivering the program to confirm exactly what efforts they might be making. I can also confirm for the Member that there is a new group now at the North Slave Correctional Facility that is offering this program, and so, to that extent, it would be offered within the program and be part of the package of available programming for individuals who are completing their sentence at that facility. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Nothing further. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Member. Any further questions? Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do have some questions on Integrated Case Management and Victim Services. There are increases in the budget, as the Minister mentioned in her opening statement, and I agree with that. I have heard about the value of these programs, but we need to see the evaluations. I know this is something the Minister keeps promising, but when are we finally going to see the evaluations of these two programs? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, Mr. Chair; I will get that right before the next two hours. Mr. Chair, the evaluation is now complete, and I can at least so far confirm for the Member that it is in my hands, and it's a question now of turning that around through the right

processes so that it can be shared properly; I would think, I'm hesitant to say that it will be before the end of the current sitting of the Assembly, but that's at least my target date. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister for that. I asked about two evaluations. Since one is ready, can you just identify which one it is and what the schedule is, then, for the other one? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Sorry, Mr. Chair. Yes, I was entirely focused on the most recent evaluation that was done, of the Integrated Case Management; that's the social return on investment and that is the one that has not been shared. As I have said, my target date is to have it, while it's not quite a commitment, it's at least a target, to have it by the end of the current sitting of the Assembly. The older one, from roughly 2017, Mr. Chair, ought to have been previously shared, and if it wasn't a tabled document, then I will confirm and we can make sure that it is. I will look into whether there was any restriction on its being shared. Sometimes, Integrated Case Management evaluations do contain identifying information, and if that's the case, then we'll just have to ensure that that is taken out before it can be shared. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Now I've got the schedule for the Integrated Case Management evaluation. What about the evaluation of the Victim Services program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're just confirming. My recollection is that I should have that back this month. Ah, April 2020. I was a little bit ambitious. By end of April 2020 we'll have that back. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. In the Minister's opening remarks, she indicated that there is an extra \$240,000 for Victim Services. Can the Minister tell us how that money is actually allocated or split out? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I do have a breakdown by community that we can provide to the Member. Money that flows through the Victim Services does go direct to the individual communities via community partners, whether it's community governments or organizations such as the Native Women's Association. Subject to what the Member might say, I would suggest a commitment to providing the allocation by community after, as part of our response, but I certainly can read the numbers out if that's preferred. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't need the Minister to read it out, but I want the information made public. If the Minister would like to table that as a return to oral question, that would be great. It sounds like the money is kind of being spread out amongst maybe around eight or 10 communities. Will there be consideration of additional increases to Victim Services once the department has had a chance to review the evaluation? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I certainly can table that as a response, in terms of the specific funding to communities. We will do that. There are currently eight communities that are receiving funding for in-person services. Other communities in their respective regions can access them by telephone. I can certainly commit to considering whether or not Victim Services can and should be expanded to other in-person services in other communities; what I can't do is commit to, in fact, having that happen. It would have to look at what the report says and conduct some degree of cost benefit analysis, or consider what other alternatives we can use to help support individuals in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I'm sure the Minister can talk to her twin sister, the Minister of Finance, about the value of Victim services. Anyway, I've been asking about this, and the previous Minister did commit to do the work, so that's great. I'm really anxious to see the results of this and to make sure that we get the support needed, and that we complete this network across the NWT. You know, I made a Member's statement and asked questions about this already once in this

sitting and raised it in the House a couple of times. I think that's all I've got on this section of the budget. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Nothing, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if the Minister can speak to the significant increase in travel for the Department of Justice under the community justice and policing section? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A significant amount of the travel is the result, in community justice, we often wind up either bringing community justice committee chairs into their regional centres, and often sometimes into Yellowknife, and that is a significant reason for the increase in funding, increases to travel budgets. The other significant contributing factor is the Northwest Territories guns and gangs strategy involves researchers going into communities in Behchoko, Inuvik, Fort Smith, and Hay River, so there are costs, of course, associated with that travel. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if the increase to contract services is also in relation to the guns and gangs contract, or are there other contracts involved in that increase as well? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, thank you. Contract services has two reasons for an increase. The first is in the integrated case management program saw some increase, and then, the guns and gangs is more than double that is the reason for the increase involving having local facilitators in the communities in order to assist in terms of garnering the research that's required to produce that strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if the Minister can also speak to the first line item, community justice, and indicate in a little

bit more detail, the increase of a million dollars under that line item. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It was pointed out to me just now, and I want to correct the record that the increase in contract services was exclusively for guns and gangs. It was a reduction on the ICM side, so I apologize for misstating that. With respect to community justice, the increase there, there's a number of reasons for the increase. This is where you get into contribution agreement to victim services. It is one reason for the increase. The increase is in resources to integrated case management of \$276,000, as well as some increases as a result of the collective agreement that are increasing salaries during the current period and the impact, and then, yes, also, of course, the increase in funding for guns and gangs initiative of \$465,000 is found under that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Does the Minister have a breakdown of where people or the clients of ICM are from? Are they all from Yellowknife or some from communities? Is it a mixture? Is it exclusively Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Minister.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In fact, only 55 percent of clients who go through ICM are either born and raised or have been in Yellowknife for more than five years. The rest entirely, so 45 percent of all clients that are receiving services from ICM are from outside of Yellowknife, from other Northwest Territories' communities. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to the 45 percent that are from outside Yellowknife, do they have to be located within the capital at the time that they're receiving services to get help from ICM, or are they able to seek assistance over the phone, or through somebody located in a community? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. They don't necessarily need to be a resident of Yellowknife in order to. My understanding, anyhow, is that they don't need to be a resident of

Yellowknife at the time of being accepted. Acceptance is based more on a referral, and referrals have to come in through a service provider within the social envelope that are participants in the ICM program. I can certainly confirm, and I've been told stories directly about individuals who have continued to receive services through the ICM program even when they have returned home to their home communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to the protection against family violence line, does this also include financial support for victims of family violence? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. Support for victims of crime directly would be either through victim services or through, perhaps, the emergency victims of crime fund, and I think I may have the fund slightly wrong. This line item is not for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. No further questions from Member for Kam Lake. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. NORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of comments about this session. In your opening comments, you mentioned there was \$5.6 million in forced growth, and that goes to increases in territorial police services agreement. One thing I'd love to see, and I know we are talking a lot about moving towards land claims and moving and implementing those agreements with our Indigenous governments. At some point down the road, I would love to see, to do what other jurisdictions like they do in Alberta. There are some reserves that police their own, like the Blood Tribe Police Services. They hire their own people, and they get funding. They thoroughly vet them, and they do that. At some point, I would love to see some of this instead of going to the RCMP, going to our own people. I think at some point, I'd love to see that.

I have a lot of respect for the RCMP. I've served them, but I think at some point down the road, we're going to finalize some of our agreements here. I'd love to see the Akaitcho hire their own, or the Dehcho, and have their own people enforce their own laws. Dene laws along with our own laws. That's what I would love to see somewhere down the road, and start having those conversations, and moving away from this colonial way of doing business. I'd just thought I'd make that opening comment. I'll leave that with that.

I did have a question with integrated case management, ICM. I notice here it's mainly for Yellowknife and it affects my constituents of Ndilo and Detah.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): This is, I guess, the section that you want to be referring to here is a little bit later, the policing section. Right now, we are on community justice and policing. Just bear with me. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. NORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Going back to what I was saying about integrated case management. I had a question for the Minister. Just speaking briefly with this, so this ICM, integrated case management covers Yellowknife, Ndilo and Detah. It covers my constituents of Ndilo and Detah, which is great, but it really doesn't offer too much outside of that. Just listening to some other questions here, I didn't really hear anything being addressed about any plans to move this program outside of the Yellowknife area. My question is: do you have any plans to do that, address this ICM and moving into the small communities?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point, the program does service Yellowknife, Detah, and Ndilo specifically, and there is no express plan at this point to expand that service. Although, as I noted in some of the earlier questions, fully 45 percent of the individuals who receive services are residents of other communities. That said, the GNWT in general, right now, is taking an approach of trying to move to more integrated services and more integrated service delivery. That's about the best I can say right now, is that there is a broad level of commitment to improving this kind of service across communities and across services. As far as the integrated case management program specifically, there is not a set plan to expand it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. NORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the response from the Minister. I have to say that response saddens me and upsets me. Again, we are starting this theme now where we're having a lot of programs just in the Yellowknife area. We need to have some more parity. This is a really good example of that not happening. We'll keep on going here, but I just wanted to make that known. Mahsi cho.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, no, I hear the Member's point. I hear his concerns. I would note that one of the other things that ICM does deliver is identifying barriers in the services that are provided. Certainly, I can commit to saying that as those barriers are being identified, we do now, in this Assembly, the 19th Legislative Assembly need to do a better job of ensuring that those barriers are removed. That will have benefits for our residents across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Are there any further questions? Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just want to have a couple of opening remarks. I was looking at page 261, just before the 262 and 263, and you have 331 positions for Yellowknife and 122 for the rest, the regions and the small communities. The way it lists it is North Slave as 246 and headquarters as 85, but very deceiving the way all the booklets that we've been receiving right from the beginning, since I started here; 246 for North Slave and 85 for headquarters, that's 331 positions in this area. Wow, that's a lot of positions.

The ministry used the term "sharing" in a previous reply. Sharing is extremely important when it comes to the wealth of the Northwest Territories. We depend on government positions in the smaller communities and regions, also. At some point, there has to be either more positions developed for the outlying regions and for the small communities. I, too, agree that the Integrated Case Management program is a great program. That's why I said that, if we don't get at least one position in Fort Smith and one in Inuvik, then I'm not going to be voting for the budget. I firmly believe that we have to start somewhere, and I don't see us doing that.

My question is: evaluations are great. I'm sure the evaluation of the integrated case management program had a great evaluation because terms and conditions that are referenced in an evaluation are usually provided by the department, and you know what the outcome is going to be. I like the outcome, but I really would like an outcome, too, for the region of people that I represent in Thebacha. As we should also look after the Inuvik region, for a start. Do you believe in decentralizing some of these programs that are all offered here? I want to know your answer to that.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I might personally feel or believe is not what should win the day, it's what's best for the

Department of Justice, acting as one of the departments in the GNWT.

Mr. Chair, there are three large correctional facilities that ultimately wind up fulfilling the majority of the human resources components. One is here in Yellowknife, one is in Hay River, and one is in Fort Smith. That's the largest component of human resources within the Department of Justice. The other large component is the legal division, which includes a large staffing component that is here in Yellowknife and serves all the departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories, largely here within Yellowknife. There are challenges, certainly, with not going to be building any new correctional facilities in the imminent future. Indeed, there are empty spaces in the ones that we have, fortunately. It is, as I believe, and I've been instructed, the mandate for our all of us to consistently look for opportunities when there are new positions and new programs being created to consistently look for those opportunities to be located in positions elsewhere, outside of Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Just want to make a comment here. I've just got to remind Members is that we have moved past the general comments and we're in pages 262 to 265. As well, asking opinions are not in orders, anything directed to the Minister should be through the Chair. Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll remember that. I'm just wondering, you say that 55 percent of the clients are from Yellowknife or northern. How many people are 55 percent?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That number was derived from a range, looking at 248 active participants. It would be roughly about 130 or so. That's just me making a guess without a calculator. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: I want to get back to this whole integrated case management program. It's a void in the communities, and I'm just wondering if the Minister would consider ensuring that the region of Fort Smith and Inuvik will get a position also, because it is void in the community for this program that is required in the community and for the region.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would love to see integrated case management rolled out everywhere. I am a tremendous supporter of this program. Realistically, it is not going to be within the budget that there currently is to establish new offices with these kinds of services in different communities. It's not just a question of the individual human being, but of a support team. Within the integrated case management office and services, there is a certain level of capacity and knowledge that's been built up within the team that exists here. Again, it wouldn't be quite so simple as to take a person and just say that they will be out somewhere else. That said, Mr. Chair, I am committed to finding some solutions. Certainly, over the next fiscal year, within the current budget that's being proposed, to find ways to have the ICM workers that we have here in Yellowknife perhaps better with the GSO offices that exist elsewhere in the other communities. That is a centralized feature that's available to a lot of the communities, although acknowledging not all of them, but it is available in a lot of the communities. There may well be ways that we can better support the collaborative services between these different departments that offer these services, ICM under Justice and then the GSO offices. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: I just want to remind the Minister that there are a lot of qualified people in other communities, also, besides Yellowknife, and just doing something a little bit differently to ensure that we get the same service as the people of Yellowknife is essential. I think we are not asking for very much. It's a right. We live in the same area. We have this mandate, and I honestly feel that I want you to know that you agree with me, that there are qualified people all over the territories, not only Fort Smith, Inuvik, Yellowknife. The smaller communities have qualified people. Correct?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, I believe that the Northwest Territories is full of incredibly qualified people across all of our communities, who can contribute tremendous things to the GNWT and to their communities in a variety of capacities.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Thebacha, no further questions. Any further questions? Member for Monfwi.

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Chair. [Translation] Regarding community justice and the RCMP, I

would like to ask the Minister a question. The past couple of years, we have been advocating for Aboriginal policing, so I want to ask a question regarding that. [Translation ends]

Community justice and policing, I know that there has been training in the past because I have been involved as the Minister of Justice of the day. We have had a successful outcome training an individual to become almost a full-fledged RCMP officer, without investigation. They are from Hay River, your community. We are obviously a huge supporter of that process. Has there been other training pertaining to Aboriginal policing since then, and how many have we graduated, Mr. Chair? Masi.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It may be that the Member is referencing the special constable program. The special constable program was and is a program that is run under the RCMP. In general, although under the territorial police financing agreement there is a contribution that is made towards funding of training for the RCMP, the Department of Justice in the Northwest Territories does not otherwise have direct control over the different training programs that are offered by the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Monfwi.

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Chair. Usually, the RCMP "G" Division would inquire or talk about recruitment process, and they want to recruit people from the communities. Obviously, that requires training, and we, as a Department of Justice, need to be proactive. Because we talk about money, we can identify funds towards that to train our own people to become full-fledged RCMP officers. We can't always say it's "G" Division, that they approve, that they have to come up with the training requirements, training funding. We have to be proactive, as the justice department, to move forward, to say we want to set the mandate target within five years to produce 20 full-fledged officers. That should be one of the targets. We do not have that. We talk about training here and there. We produced one that I know of out of Hay River. He is still an officer right now, which I am very proud of. Mr. Chair, those are some of the commitments I would like to hear from the Minister going forward, obviously working with the chief commanding officer, if this is something that she is willing to meet with "G" Division, if it's to discuss further training opportunities within Northwest Territories? Masi.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Recruiting local people to perform local services is, I believe, something that everyone wants to see. With respect to, though, the specific recruitment efforts of the RCMP, I am hesitant to make any commitments on their behalf, but I agree with the Member. I certainly already do meet with our "G" Division commanding officer, the partners that we have in the delivery of the policing services. I will continue to do so, and I will raise with them recruitment targets. The last time we met, I recall very specifically that they took some pride in the number of recruitments that they have. I believe in fact that they have a dedicated recruitment officer here in the Northwest Territories. I will confirm that, and I will confirm it back to the Member. That was my recollection, is that they are in fact quite proud of the efforts that they are making to recruit Northerners to the RCMP service. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Monfwi.

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Chair. Obviously, I would like to see up-and-coming training on the "G" Division as has happened at the depot. I know there has been some in-term exposure for some northern students. Just so it happens, one of my daughters was interested, so she pursued it through her high school. She had a week, I believe it was a week or 10 days, at the depot, and obviously, she is interested now. She wants to be a cop after she gets her degree, so I think we need to do more of those areas of recruitment and promotion. I am glad the Minister is willing to sit down with the chief commanding officer to deal with this matter.

Mr. Chair, I would like to focus on 33 communities, since we are talking about community justice and the conversation, as well, in her opening remarks: working with the RCMP to ensure 33 communities of Northwest Territories have a policing priority action plan. As you know, Mr. Chair, not all communities have RCMP detachments, and I do believe we did away with that. We are not building any more detachments. Is that the understanding the Minister has? Masi, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, the cost of a new detachment is approximately \$7 to \$10 million simply to build it. That is notwithstanding the several millions of dollars of continuing maintenance thereafter, so that is not in the immediate capital plan. I am happy to answer that question. I am just not sure if there are more detailed questions about policing services as

opposed to community policing. I guess I am a bit in the chair's hands, as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Monfwi.

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Chair. What I am trying to get at is those communities that do not have detachments, how do we restrain those individuals who get in trouble? I see first-hand in Gameti, they have a restraining chair in one of the offices at the community government offices; it's just a small room. What if we had, like, five of them, five individuals who are making trouble in the community? We only have two officers who every now and then come and visit the community of Gameti. I am just more concerned about the safety aspects of the community. It's not just my community; there are 10 or 11 communities without detachments. I am speaking on all of them. I am speaking on behalf of them, as well. What is the plan going forward to deal with those areas, detaining those individuals who may be causing trouble? We only have two officers in the community, and we are lucky that there has not been a major offence in the community, to deal with this, these matters. Mr. Chair, I am just speaking from a community safety perspective. What is the plan going forward from justice department, working with "G" Division? Masi.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the key areas of engagement that we have already begun as the Department of Justice within the 19th Assembly is to truly advocate to the federal government to expand the First Nations Policing Program. The First Nations Policing Program provides a different type of funding arrangement between the RCMP and the Government of the Northwest Territories and supports the increase of additional positions within Indigenous communities. Under that program, as it is, there are five additional police officers coming in, in 2021, but it's our view that that program really needs to be expanded so that it can better serve a bigger variety of communities. Right now, those positions are regional, but they are regional to within communities that are already signed into that framework.

Our hope is that, with some advocacy with community partners or with Indigenous governments, the federal government will, in fact, expand that program so that it can be one that benefits more of the communities and we can, as such, better serve exactly the communities that the Member is speaking of. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Monfwi.

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Chair. I, too, definitely agree that this should be expanded. The First Nations Policing Program has been very successful in the past, and we should be at a point of, as the Justice Department or as a government, we should be matching the GNWT "G" Division, what they offer at the table. There should be a partnership. We talk about partnership as a government, but we shouldn't just be looking to "G" Division to see if they are willing to add more funding. We should be proactive.

Mr. Chair, I only have 30 seconds of my time. One more question I have is the justice committees. Are all committees actively engaged and active as justice committee members? Masi.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can say that all 33 communities are engaged by the Department of Justice towards developing their community justice committees, but that not all communities have the same level of participation amongst their actual committees. There are a handful of communities that, although there has been outreach, are still working to have greater development of their community justice programs. I can tell you, from 2019-2020, that 30 of the 33 did access funding for community justice programs, so those other three, we certainly, as I say, continue to be engaged with them, but there is still some work to be done. Mr. Chair, this is an area in general that, while funding over 2020-2021 is set, it's certainly my hope that this is an area where we can continue to work with community partners and Indigenous governments to really engage the activity within the communities, so that it's really about a partnership, about what's happening on the ground, and not simply us going to them but them joining us and moving community justice forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Are there any more questions with respect to community justice and policing? Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one short question, and it has to do with Aboriginal policing, also, because there is a problem with enforcement on reserve. There has always been a problem. You talked about training and First Nations policing and getting access to the federal program. I think that's a good way of going, and I encourage you to do that. I think that it's very important that Salt River First Nations Reserve has proper enforcement by its own people. I'm just

making a comment, and I think it's extremely important. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. These kinds of reminders are exactly one of the main benefits of this process. I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Just a reminder. I guess we kind of agreed there that we'd just have one round of questions, so just keep that in mind. Are there any further questions with respect to community justice and policing? No further questions. Please turn to page 263. Justice, community justice and policing, operations expenditure summary, 2020-2021 Main Estimates, \$6,594,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Corrections, beginning on page 266 with information item on page 269. Any questions or comments? Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I see that new in the last budget was offender reintegration line. Could the Minister just elaborate on this? Apparently, it's to do with the therapeutic community, but I wasn't aware that the therapeutic community had started operating yet. Could she explain? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The therapeutic community is still under development, but it will start operation during this fiscal year that is under consideration at this point. In fact, the full transition is expected to happen in the fall of 2020, and so this funding is considered to be part of that preparation and it's meant to assist in working with local community partners and to assist in preparing local community partners in order that they can be available to support the re-entry and, well, the therapeutic community itself, so ensuring that individuals who are going through that process have access to services and placements within that community and that there can be outreach done in advance of the full program being rolled out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell us about some of the community partners and what assistance, exactly, they are going to provide? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, when I attended, myself, down in Hay River and had a tour, they described engaging with everything from businesses to local volunteer organizations, to provide both sort of placements and just involvement and to engage them so that they are aware of what the program is and what the opportunities to involve might be. That's not a very specific answer, and at this point, the reason it's not very specific is because some of the details of exactly who might be involved depends on the willingness of those partners to be involved. What I would suggest, Mr. Chair, is that I would commit to get back to the Member as those plans develop. When there is more of a list of it, if there are to be committed partners or a list of anticipated partners, I would commit to get that to the Member at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you. I appreciate that answer, and I look forward to seeing the roll-out plan for fall of this year. When this money on offender reintegration is being spent, is any of it being spent on lining up housing for people who are coming out of the therapeutic community? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point, that is an option. It is one of the possibilities. Again, it will depend on who specifically in the community is ultimately partnered and ultimately decides to be partnered; so not only on the end of the Department of Justice but from the community partners. This may well be an opportunity for partners in that community to offer some sort of housing reintegration, but at this point, I can't commit specifically other than to say that it's an option.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me know if this is not the correct place to ask this question, but I'm wondering if the Minister can speak to if there is a budget for professional leadership development for corrections officers within our correctional facilities. Does it fall under this page? Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you for that, Member. I am not quite sure, but, Minister.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know there is a budget for leadership training and for corrections training generally, and I think it probably does fall within this area, so I will leave it to the Member for her next question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Okay. It does fall under here, but we are not entirely sure where. Maybe that would be under compensation and benefits? I am going to take a guess. There is a bit of an increase there, but I think it is from UNW forced growth. I am wondering if there is an increase, for this fiscal year, of leadership professional development training for corrections officers. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, sorry, and I am sorry for the hesitancy earlier. It depends a bit on what part the Member is asking for. Training funding comes both under the contracts for the people providing it as well as travel, for example. As far as an increase this year, there is not a detailed increase. There is no specific increase. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are a number of people who work within corrections facilities who are not necessarily corrections officers, so I am wondering if there is any kind of professional development fund for people who are not corrections officers, who may require safety training because they work within the facility? Our corrections officers undergo six to eight weeks of training for safety and how to do their job, so other people who may come into contact with inmates, is there any kind of professional development training for those people? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Any individuals who are coming into the facility have access to a variety of GNWT training programs. If there are specific individuals from outside of the correctional service, so for example if they are staff within the health department, Mr. Chair, I may not be best placed to speak to what specific training they have or have not received. I think perhaps I would commit to getting the Member a breakdown, perhaps by who comes into the

facility. There was one specific item I was looking for. The Member had mentioned about leadership. Corrections is currently developing a leadership course for their supervisors and their managers that is, as I say, right now under development, under the expectations that it will be delivered in 2020 and 2021. To the extent that we have better management and supervising within the corrections facilities, that will be no doubt to the benefit of all GNWT staff who enter into the premises. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister did set up a very helpful tour for a lot of Members, at the North Slave Correctional Facility, that a lot of us did partake in, and it was really nice to have the opportunity during that visit to meet with the facility's traditional counsellor who is employed there. I am wondering, because a lot of inmates in the Northwest Territories are also on a healing journey when they are in our correctional facilities, does the traditional counsel have their own budget line item for cultural activities within the facilities? Thank you

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is not a specific line item for cultural activities within the facility. That said, it is very much considered to be a core part of the services that are provided by corrections in the Northwest Territories, starting from the point when somebody enters the facility through to the kinds of programming that are provided, as well as, for example, even the structure of the buildings themselves. The new facility that is in Fort Smith, Mr. Chair, has considered better integrating a land-based approach, even within the facility itself, even within the construction of the grounds of the facility. It is not a line item, but it is a consideration at all stages and in all types of planning that are undertaken for corrections. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thanks very much, Mr. Chair. Would the Minister be prepared to make a commitment to personally see what type of budget is allocated to the traditional counsellors within our corrections facilities in the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, I am assured that we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. That was easy. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: I need a button. Thank you. I appreciate that one a lot. I am wondering if the Minister can let us know what rate of Nunavut inmates choose to stay within Yellowknife following their incarceration. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the moment, in terms of just individuals who are adults in the North Slave, it appears that we have eight. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Just to clarify, is that we currently we have eight Nunavut inmates or 8 percent of inmates choose to stay within the capital following their incarceration? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are currently within the North Slave Correctional Facility eight individuals, four sentenced and four on remand, who are classified as being Nunavut prisoners. As far as it being a choice necessarily, Mr. Chair, it involves classification that is done by correctional officials, so just to be clear, it's not necessarily a choice either of the Department of Justice or of the individuals, but it depends on a variety of factors. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In reviewing the budget, it's apparent that our corrections budget is over half of what we contribute, as the GNWT, to our housing budget, to the NWT Housing Corporation. Just in line with the Member for Yellowknife Centre's questions, finding ways to help people reintegrate back into their home communities would be very valuable to the government, so I am wondering if the Department of Justice has any plans to review corrections programs, to hopefully be able to work with inmates to better reduce recidivi -- oh, my gosh. I can't say that word, recidivi -- yes, what Mr. Norn said. Thank you.

---Laughter

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, philosophically, I would say that I am fully in favour of improving reintegration of individuals to their community and reducing recidivism for all individuals who come into conflict with the law, whatever nature it might be. How we do that is much more complicated. That is the real nugget of the whole matter, Mr. Chair. I fully expect that I will continue to get questions and should get questions about how we are reintegrating, how we are reducing the rates of recidivism, how we are reducing the rates of contact with the justice system in the first place. I did make a very large note that says "housing" and underlined it earlier, and perhaps I will add a circle to it now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Are there any further questions or comments with respect to corrections? Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just building on my colleague's comments regarding corrections, I think there is large recognition both professionally and best practices, that, if we can avoid putting people in corrections, we save money. We are spending millions of dollars constructing this new facility in Fort Smith. I question whether we should have just provided housing and addiction treatment to those people, but that is a different question. Can the Minister just explain, I often hear the new Fort Smith Correctional Complex referred to as a therapeutic model, how that is different from North Slave correctional facility?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a brand new complex in Fort Smith, which is obviously there, but it's not the therapeutic community. The therapeutic community is the one that is actually in Hay River. The idea there is that there are four phases that are going to be provided to individuals who come into contact with the system. From the very earliest integration into the facility, rather than being in a position where they are sort of told how to manage their lives and controlled, they are given increasing ability and opportunities to take responsibility for their own actions, and as they do that they move through the different phases and get increasing access to greater freedoms and greater opportunities as they go through the four phases. It's meant to be something where they're given that opportunity to truly take responsibility for their actions, for their lives, and for their own process as they go through a correctional programming, rather than be told by facility wardens or case officers what they have to do and how to do it. It's turning the model in terms of taking responsibility and integrating that process

throughout the person's stay at the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, I was confused about the difference between the Hay River complex, the new Fort Smith complex, and the North Slave correctional complex. I'm fully supportive of the Hay River therapeutic community model, I think it is the future of corrections. There seems to be recognition by all parties that these are the steps we should be taking, so my question to the Minister of Justice is: why is the new Fort Smith facility and North Slave not also using this therapeutic community model, if we recognize it as the direction we want to be going?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The facilities that are based in Fort Smith, certainly the one that is for male individuals, is often one that receives individuals who have other, higher needs. For example, often with mental health challenges, which wouldn't necessarily be appropriate for the therapeutic model. The North Slave facility is the facility that generally houses, first of all, more remand individuals, but also often higher risk individuals. There may be a vision, and the time may come where other facilities can transition or add to their programming, but for the moment, what's happening in Hay River is the first of its kind in the North. We are going to start with one, and the other facilities continue to have to maintain needs and respond to needs for the other classifications of risk that still come into contact with the Justice System. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to just make a comment first before I ask the question, and that is that I'm very proud to say that most of the people at the two facilities in Fort Smith are extremely qualified and do an excellent job. I've been to both facilities at various times with clients, especially when I was with my other leadership role in Salt River. I support both facilities and the staff. There are some gaps in the system, and a lot of the people in there are long-term residents, members of Salt River, members of the Metis community that are staffing these units. They run a really incredible atmosphere at both facilities. I want to commend them for that. There's some of the staff members that have sometimes get into, maybe a problem of some kind, whether it be, could be a DUI or something, and it hasn't gone to court yet. Then they're disciplined in a certain manner, and they get

fired without just cause. Then there have been times when the offence didn't even go to court, and they've been fired. They've gone to the union, and the union takes too long to get to the case, and the family has been ruined.

I want to know if you, as the Minister, would put a more objective group in place for these kind of cases and it not be a form of dictatorship and a trial and everything else in your department by one or two people that are doing this and letting this happen when a whole family is ruined because of this. It's happened a couple times. I've had a couple of people at Salt River when I was there that that had happened to, and since then I've had about 10 people come to me and explain this whole situation to me of what's been happening with dictatorship, injustice for people. They have rights. Everybody in Canada has a right. You're with the Department of Justice. I want to know how you're going to deal with that.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Human resources happen to fall within the purviews of the Department of Finance. I happen to know, whether wearing either one of my hats, that the Department of Justice and supported by the Department of Finance, do have robust policies in place that they follow whenever there is a question of needing to terminate an individual. Individuals who work within the corrections service, by necessity, have to meet a very high standard of conduct, given the position of trust that they're in and that, if there are concerns with their performance, that those processes are the processes to evaluate their performance in human resources are going to be followed. It is my responsibility, and will be my responsibility, to ensure that those processes are followed, to review those processes if necessary. I can certainly commit to doing so if necessary in order to ensure that those procedures and processes, which are meant to be objective and independent and fair, are followed. I'm confident our partners in the union will do the same and will take their roles seriously, and I would like to assure the Member that we will continue to perform those functions in the best accordance with the law. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Just a reminder to all the Members, as well, that any questions go to the chair first, not directed to the Minister. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Chair, I also want to ask the Minister why we are following BC standards and not using Canadian standards in justice?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: I can only assume, Mr. Chair, that the Member might be referring to the fact that there are individuals who have attended the Northwest Territories from British Columbia with specialized skills, to deliver specialized training, but the Department of Justice applies, to the extent that there is a criminal code, the federal criminal code, and to the extent that it's the laws of the Northwest Territories, and indeed we have developed our own training program for corrections officers with northern components within that, and will continue to refine and deliver that program in the Northwest Territories to corrections officers here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Thebacha. Corrections. Please turn to page 267. Justice, corrections, operations expenditure summary, 2020-2021 Main Estimates, \$38,511,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Committee agrees. Thank you. The next section is court services, beginning on page 270, information item on page 272. Are there any questions? No questions. Please turn to page 271. Justice, court services, operations expenditure summary, 2020-2021 Main Estimates, \$14,281,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Agreed. Thank you, committee. Legal aid services, beginning on page 273, with information item on page 275. Any questions? Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am looking at the compensation and benefits line under legal aid services, and I see it's increased by about \$900,000 since the 2018-2019 actuals. Can the Minister tell us what's driving this increase? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just confirming that the actuals can sometimes include vacant positions that may or may not have been filled at the time, whereas the main estimates assumes all the positions that have been allocated to the department. We would point back to the revised estimates to show the difference. I can note, Mr. Chair, that there is some increase as a result of increases related to the collective agreement, and the increase in funding

for one additional position with the outreach lawyer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. No further questions. Any further questions with respect to legal aid services? No further questions. Please turn to page 274. Justice, legal aid services, operations expenditures summary, 2020-2021 Main Estimates, \$7,013,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations beginning on page 276 with information item on page 278. Any questions? Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering, the Minister's in kind of a funny position here with regard to the OROGO budget. Is this prepared by the staff of OROGO, and then, provided to the Minister for review and/or approval? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Staff of OROGO do, certainly, have a significant role in completing the materials and it, of course, still have to be put together in conjunction with the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Does this budget go to the Financial Management Board? Who signs off on the budget? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, it follows the same process as the rest of the main estimates. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't think that was the answer I was looking for. This budget is prepared by the staff. Does it go to FMB for approval and/or the Minister of Finance or Cabinet? Who makes the final decision about whether and how this appears in the main estimates? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, obviously, if I'm wrong about this, I will bring a correction back, but my understanding is that the Office of the Oil and Gas Regulator puts together their financial budgeting, just the same as any other department. It does go to the Department of Finance to be compiled together with all the main estimates that then come before the committee in the same fashion as the other items that the numbers that are here are generally put together through a business planning process. Obviously, all of the main estimates here didn't have quite the same business planning process because of the fall election, but in general, that was my understanding is that is how these numbers are generated. When I say it's the same as the others, obviously, it operates somewhat differently than a department because it is somewhat more at arm's length and doesn't have a deputy minister specifically other than deputy minister of Justice but it has an executive officer in charge. The numbers are otherwise put together in a similar fashion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I understand that these guys are at arm's length and that they put together the budget. Does the Minister have any oversight? Does the Minister sign off on this budget in any way? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, I'm not trying to be obstructive. I guess I just sign off on it, the same as I sign off on the rest of the budget that is before committee right now. I am here to defend it. I'm here to provide explanations of it, and I'm prepared to receive any comments or concerns that the Member has about the numbers that are before the committee right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Well, it only took me six minutes to get there. Look, I've met with these people. They do a good job. They've got in place some guidance. They carry out their jobs good. No issues there whatsoever. They've been very helpful any time I visited or had questions, but at some point, there is no oil and gas activity happening here. How and when will we sort of review the financial needs for OROGO, and make any necessary adjustments if there's no oil and gas activity? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, thank you. Fortunately, I have had contact with the staff who do administer the day-to-day operations and am assured that these numbers were developed initially post-devolution to reflect the certain reality, given the current reality in the business planning process that will be undertaken this spring, that there may well be a review to consider whether or not these estimates are more than is required in light of the work that they are being requested to do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess I'm looking for an understanding of trends through time in terms of the level and the amount of activity and work that these folks have to do. The Minister says that that's being reviewed. Will that information be brought to standing committee for committee to look at? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's my understanding that that work is currently being undertaken by the executive director of OROGO and that it will be coming before committee as part of the planning process. I can see the difference in the numbers myself. I am confident that the executive director at OROGO is going to be undertaking that work if she hasn't already. It will be back before committee. If the committee would like a technical briefing before we get into business planning process, I'm more than happy to make sure that that happens. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The Minister seems to be looking at some numbers. Can those be shared now with Regular MLAs? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, in referencing the reality in terms of looking at actuals and main estimates, just that there is a significant difference between what's being budgeted and what's actually being spent. Mr. Chair, the Member references trends over time. Let me look into that and see if there is a trend over time that I can produce and, if we can, that we can provide. The commitment is to at least look into it first and then determine whether or not it can be provided or when. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake, you have 30 seconds.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. The story of my life. I'm running out of time. Yes. What I'm interested in is the number of applications they received; they've reviewed; the number of inspections they carried out; the amount of material posted to their active and suspended licences, permits; all of that kind of stuff. That's what I think we want to know is what the workload is and whether it's changing over time. I really look forward to getting that out of the Minister and the regulator. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, that kind of tracking is being kept. I'm scanning my notes right now for numbers, but that's not the best use of anyone's time right here. Let me commit to getting some numbers back, and perhaps what I will do is engage directly with the Member first before responding, to ensure that we're giving the kinds of numbers he's looking for that can assist this committee in evaluating this work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Are there any further questions? Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just in regard to all the jobs, they all seem to be in headquarters, six of them. Nothing in the Beaufort-Delta where the actual oil and gas is, in the Sahtu. Are there any plans to start putting our jobs in the communities where the oil and gas is really at, or just keeping everything in Yellowknife like a sponge? Oh, did I say that out loud? I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, the jurisdiction of OROGO covers only land. I'm sorry. I'm going to stumble over this a little bit. I don't have it correctly. Sorry, no. It does not cover the federal areas or the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and it only covers the land. It's not necessarily covering all of the regions that the Member from Nunakput would necessarily be referencing. It also doesn't cover one of the carve-out regions right in the area of Norman Wells, so it doesn't cover all of the Northwest Territories. That said, I am conscious of what the Member is saying, that, even without covering some of the most northerly and perhaps a large chunk of the oil area, it does still cover a

significant region. With some explanation, I still take the Member's point. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just in regard to 279, our community policing in the NWT through our contract between the GNWT and the Government of Canada. I've been watching in regard to this hearing on the P1 statuses for transfers across for detachments such as the sergeants, the selection that are coming into our communities. Go ahead, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Member. You just jumped ahead, there. We're dealing with the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations right now. Do you have any further questions with respect to that area?

MR. JACOBSON: On this one, policing services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Any further questions with respect to Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations? If there are no further questions, please turn to page 277. Justice, office of the regulator of oil and gas, operations expenditure summary, 2020-2021 Main Estimates, \$1,928,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Policing services, beginning on page 279. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It says First Nations policing, P1s. We have a lot of qualified individuals south, north, who should be laterally transferred over, and they are being overlooked. It seems to me like, in some cases, they've been really bringing in outsiders when we have individuals who are more than qualified in our communities to do the job. What is this Minister's stance on P1s on First Nations members? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The RCMP is responsible for their own hiring processes. What I can do, Mr. Chair, is continue to meet regularly, quarterly, as I do, with the commanding officer here locally to continue to encourage them within their processes to do recruitment. As I mentioned earlier, there is, I believe, a dedicated individual here in the Northwest Territories who does do recruitment processes, goes into the communities and engages with individuals. As they are doing that, obviously,

the more individuals are being recruited here from the Northwest Territories, the more they are in the RCMP. There is a greater number of individuals who can come back and serve their own communities, although even then there is not necessarily a guaranteed choice when you walk out of depot that you get to pick where you go. There are other things to be considered, but fundamentally, the more people are being recruited to the RCMP from the North, the more likely that there is going to be local individuals back in the communities.

As I say, I can certainly continue to raise that with our partners at the RCMP and, if there are some supports that we can provide them, then we'll certainly to do that and continue to engage. I believe I have previously offered and would make the offer again to request that the RCMP provide a technical briefing to the Members, to this committee, about the range of work they do and how exactly they do provide staffing that is appropriate and relevant to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's a lot of good information that didn't answer my question. I asked the Minister, Mr. Chair, in regard to supporting Aboriginal P1s that are qualified to do the positions and transfer them laterally into another position in another community. Where does this Minister, in the support of P1s First Nations Aboriginal members, instead of bringing them from the outside and half the time bringing in their friends, where does this Minister stand on that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, the P1 designation is one that is held by the GNWT, created by the GNWT's processes. I do not have any information that it is a status that applies within the RCMP, and I have no control over the RCMP's hiring process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I really think that the Minister should get familiarized with that because P1s are the most important thing in making sure, for myself, instead of bringing in outsiders, we have Aboriginals who can take care of our own. We should be supporting them instead of being pushed aside. I really think that we should have senior members, older members coming into our communities, our small communities, because

they won't get as excited as younger senior officers. I think that any of the transfers that are being brought in, like for sergeants and corporals who are running detachments in our small communities, I think the Minister should be getting that information from the RCMP to work with the sitting MLA of the day, to work with them to try to get somebody qualified and who has experience in working with the mayors and with the community and being able to actually see who has all applied on that P1 status, if there was P1 status. If not, then it's all up to whoever wants to apply for the small jobs in the communities, but I think that us having a little bit of input into it, I think that would be really good. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, again, I can't force the federal government to apply the GNWT's P1 status designation. What I can do is continue to meet with the "G" Division commander here to encourage him to use what efforts he can when doing the hiring for the RCMP to do so in a way that is as respectful of our communities in the North as possible and, as well, encourage as many new recruits from the North so that they have more and more individuals available to them from the depot who are from our communities and who can come back to our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think what we should do is, when they're applying for these positions and saying they're an Aboriginal member, they should show ID. That ID has to be shown. I have an Inuvialuit card; I'm Inuvialuit, and I have my number. Any kind of P1 status is through the territorial government, and we're the ones that are paying them, so I think we should have a little bit of say in who we're getting. In regard to that, I think status cards should be shown. Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's all I have.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Member. Minister, any comments?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, thank you. Only again that, obviously, there is a variety of people from the Department of Justice watching today's proceedings closely, and we will take the comments from the Members back to the RCMP when we meet with them regularly. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Any further questions on policing services? Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I recognize that the RCMP control their hiring practices, and I do appreciate the Minister's commitment to continue working with "G" Division. However, I think there is a bit of a political aspect missing from this conversation. I am looking at the federal financial committee's recommendations on budget 2020, recommendation 29, thanks to our MP, Mr. McLeod. It says, "Recognize Indigenous police services as central services under the law; ensure they can obtain long, stable term funding like other police services and expand these services in the northern territories." I really would like to see our government take a strong position on Indigenous policing. Really, what has been happening in the South, where more and more reserves are taking it on, has not really evolved to the level it should in the territories. I would like a commitment from the Minister of Justice to reach out to her counterpart, the Minister of Public Safety, the federal Minister of Finance, and then have this conversation at a political level. I am wondering if she is willing to do that.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, will the Member be satisfied if I simply say yes?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. We like yeses. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: No, I like yeses. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Any further questions with respect to policing services? No further questions. Please turn to page 280. Justice, policing services, operations expenditure summary, 2020-2021 Main Estimates, \$47,832,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. We will now move on to services to government, on page, it says 279, but is it 281?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Page 281, with information item on page 284. Are there any questions? No questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Please turn to page 282. Justice, services to government, operations expenditure summary, 2020-2021 Main Estimates, \$12,961,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Services to the public, on page 285, with information items on pages 287 to 291. Any questions? Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. NORN: Mahsi cho, Mr. Chair. I am just looking on page 286, top line, coroner's office. Actually, before at one point, it was \$1.1 million, and now for these mains, it's \$823,000. Does that just mean that there has been a decrease in positions, or can you explain the decrease for this office? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The actual numbers in 2018-2019 were just simply significantly higher than what had been budgeted. That can occur. It varies easily. One coroner's inquest can lead to much higher expenditures than usual. The forced growth that we are requesting here in terms of the main estimates, both in terms of the collective agreement but then also in terms of the general increase to the budget, it's one of the first times there has been an increase in some time. It hopefully will be a more accurate projection of what is expected to be the final estimates for 2020-2021. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. NORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I caught some of that. I understand there is some forced growth there with the collective agreement. Just so I am clear again, there is no change in positions here for this department? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, I think I may have actually been sort of mumbling along. I apologize. The increase that is being increased from the main estimates of 2019-2020 to 2020-2021, the increase in the mains is as a result in small part to the collective agreement increase but in more significant part is a forced growth application. The Member already pointed out the difference in the actuals, and so the increase here, and it's again, as I mentioned, the first time in some years that there has actually been an increase, is reflected in simply the increased costs. Everything from an increased cost for air and ground transportation as well as an increase to autopsy toxicology fees, body preservation, repatriation, these are all costs that have gone up over the years, and this is an effort to actually better reflect the reality of the costs that this office is facing. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question for the Minister about maintenance enforcement. Can the Minister give us an idea of how effective maintenance enforcement is in transferring money collected to the people who are applying for it? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Chair, thank you. I had the opportunity to actually attend maintenance enforcement myself and meet with the people there who do this work. I was just looking. They provided me, when they were there, with a very significant number, and I am hesitant to say it and get it wrong. They actually do collect quite a significant amount of money for otherwise a fairly small staff, and they are then, of course, providing that to individuals. What I will perhaps do is to simply commit rather than to guess at what that number is. It was, as I say, a significant number, and they do a lot of work for the people whom they are serving. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Yes, thank you. I appreciate the commitment to provide that information. I am also interested in knowing what the ratio of money collected is to that that is ordered paid, if she could provide that information, as well, please?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. In terms of the requests made versus actual success rates, I take it that that's, and I am getting a head nod. Yes, we will do our best. I assume that those numbers are tracked, and if they are, I think we can provide that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have one more question, and that is about recalculation efforts. We passed some legislation in the last Assembly about recalculation, making it a simpler process. Can the Minister tell us whether that is now in effect or, if not, when it will come into effect? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know that there has been some time taken, partly because it had to be approved with partners within the federal government and the administration of the federal Divorce Act. My information at present is that, indeed, this service will be launched at the end of March 2020, so I suppose the Member can hold me to that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Yes, thanks, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the Minister for that. I have a number of constituents who are looking forward to using this service, so my last question in this area is whether there will be some kind of awareness raising that this service is available, whenever it does become available, so that people can then begin to use it? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank, Mr. Chair. It certainly is my intention as a Minister to ensure that any new programs that are being offered to members of the public do receive appropriate media or other types of communications. I would just note for the Member that, at this point, when I say the end of March, that will be when the applications are going to be accepted. I don't want to create a false expectation on the part of the public that they would then turn around and immediately have recalculations done with finality. I think perhaps, with respect to when the communication goes out in a formal fashion, it might depend on exactly what stage of the role that we're at. If it's just at the stage of receiving applications, that might not be the time when we actually use our communications facilities, but perhaps what I'll do is follow up with the Member and see if we can determine what the best timing is to, in fact, provide this information to the public so that they can best use the service in a timely fashion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Anything further? Member for Kam Lake

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just noticed I missed something on page 284 and I'm wondering if we can turn back.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): It's up to me, so yes, we can.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just looking here at page 284, which indicates that there are three additional positions going into headquarters. I'm wondering if the Minister can explain to me what the positions are. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this time, the Department of Justice was anticipating and is anticipating addressing unauthorized land occupancy happening in the Department of Lands, and that, to support that undertaking, the Department of Justice was estimating that they would require three additional positions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. What would be the cost of these three positions? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe it is \$500,000; \$505,000 for three positions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell me what the additional amount that the GNWT stands to collect from unauthorized land occupancy would be?

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am hesitant to answer that. I think that may be a question that might come up as Lands comes before the committee. From the perspective of these positions, their role would be, firstly, to help determine whether or not there is an Indigenous right to a land that is being claimed or occupied, and then also to help enforce when there's a case of somebody who is unauthorized on the land. The role of these lawyers isn't primarily to be one of collection. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I just find it difficult to evaluate how effective this use of dollars is without knowing what we stand to collect and what we stand to gain from it, so I find it difficult to approve this without knowing what the other department stands to gain from it and,

ultimately, what the GNWT stands to gain or lose from this addition to the budget. I just wanted to make sure that that was noted here. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This was an opportunity or an attempt by the Department of Justice, rather than to be reactive to something happening within the government, to be proactive and to be prepared so that, when the roll-out of this program came through Lands, the Department of Justice would be there to support them. I take the Member's point, though, and I'll ensure that I work with my colleague from Lands so that resources are adequate to the program as it evolves. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Any further questions? Minister -- Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'll take that promotion. Can we just get a little bit more explanation as to what these three individuals are actually going to do? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This was an attempt on the part of the Department of Justice to identify and to review what the program of Lands was and to see what services would be required to Lands in order for them to be successful in their program. For example, there was initially determining if an individual has an Indigenous right to the land that is at issue. That is not often an uncomplicated process, legally. Then, also, as the program from Lands rolls out, to support the Department of Lands in terms of seeking to have somebody removed if they are, in fact, unauthorized in their occupancy, which is a legal process. It's anticipated and it's based on an estimate of the work load that will flow from that program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I'll be the first to agree with the Minister that the federal government didn't do a very good job when it came to squatters. This is what this is about, quite frankly. We're trying to pick up the legacy of federal mismanagement. The GNWT wasn't all that great, either, when it came to squatters, as well, but I think I've heard the Minister say that there is going to be some policy related to this that needs to be developed. Why are we springing forward so that we're going to have three positions as of April 1st going to court to get eviction orders when there is

no policy framework that has been developed and there is nothing that has been put out there to explain how this is going to roll out? Do we really need three people right off the bat? That's what I'd like to know, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I'm taking the Members' points, both of them, that, indeed, we will need to work with my colleague in the Department of Lands to ensure this resourcing, while, again, we want to demonstrate ourselves to be proactive and not responsive to the program so that we're not simply coming back later and asking for more funding to do things that we should have predicted better, but I hear the Members and I hear the committee that we will have to work with Lands and with my colleague to ensure that the resources we are seeking here are, in fact, what we need to achieve the goals, and not excessive of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, okay, so the Minister continues to make my case for me. Do we really need to have three right off the bat starting April 1st? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point, again, given that this is a program from the Department of Lands, I'll have to work with the Department of Lands and the Minister of the Department of Lands to ensure that, in fact, that program is being adequately supported and not under-resourced so that we are, again, being proactive and not simply responsive after the fact. I will commit to having that conversation. I will commit to giving it that analysis, and I am confident that we can all work forward over the next couple of weeks to determine if this is the right expenditure of resources. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The difficulty is that we're dealing with this line item now, in this part of the budget. We can't wait until we hear from the Minister of Lands on this. I'm going to move to delete two of these positions from the budget, and I'd like to get some advice on how we go about doing this. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Member. Minister, do you have any

comments? Thank you. Either Member for Hay River North or House leader.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to draw the Chair's attention to the clock. It is 6:00 p.m., and according to Rule 6(1), the House must rise at 6:00 p.m., as we weren't put into extended hours. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Magic hour is here. We will report progress.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Report of Committee of the Whole. Member for Hay River South.

Report of the Committee of the Whole

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Madam Speaker, the committee has been considering Tabled Document 30-19(2), Main Estimates 2020-2021, and Tabled Document 43-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2020-2021. Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Secunder for the motion, Member for Yellowknife Centre. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 24, third reading of bills. Orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Ball): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
5. Replies to the Budget Address (Day 6 of 7)
6. Report of Committees on the Review of Bills
7. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
8. Returns to Oral Questions
9. Acknowledgements
10. Oral Questions
11. Written Questions
12. Returns to Written Questions

13. Replies to the Commissioner's Address
14. Petitions
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Motions
18. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 30-19(2), Main Estimates 2020-2021
 - Tabled Document 43-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2020-2021
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This House is adjourned until Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

