

Northwest Territories LA News Releases | 2017

17-01	Jan. 13	Tlicho Chiefs, Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Discuss Priority Issues
17-02	Jan. 26	Ledge Talks: 100% Renewable Energy in the NWT: Starting the Conversation
17-03	Jan. 31	Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning: 2017-18 Budget Priorities
17-04	Feb. 06	Proposed Initiatives and Reductions for the 2017-18 Operations Budget
17-05	Feb. 10	NWT Launches Daughters of the Vote Initiative: Program Encourages Young Women to Consider Politics
17-06	Feb. 28	Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures to Present Report on Review of Members' Conduct Guidelines
17-07	Mar. 03	Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Reaches Agreement With Cabinet On Key Items In 2017-18 Budget
17-08	Mar. 07	Standing Committee on Government Operations Present Review of Auditor General Report
17-09	Apr. 06	Standing Committee on Social Development Correspondence Released
17-10	Apr. 07	Legislative Assembly Flags Lowered to Commemorate Vimy Ridge Day
17-11	Apr. 19	Ledge Talks: Does NASA Want to Hear From Us? Turns Out the Answer Is "Yes"!
17-12	May 05	Youth Parliament 2017
17-13	May 08	Yellowknife Regular Members Call on Cabinet to Take Immediate Action To Support the Northern Frontier Visitor Centre
17-14	May 23	2017 Recipients of the Order of the Northwest Territories Announced
17-15	June 01	Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on Progress Review of GNWT Mandate
17-16	July 20	Tu Nedhe – Wiilideh MLA Congratulates Youth Attending Games
17-17	Aug. 25	18 th Assembly Fall Caucus Retreat
17-18	Sept. 27	18 th Legislative Assembly Mid-Term Review Process
17-19	Oct. 02	MLA Salaries and Benefits

Northwest Territories LA News Releases | 2017

17-20	Oct. 12	Fred Carmichael Order of the Northwest Territories Induction Ceremony
17-21	Oct. 20	Appointment to Commission Offices
17-22	Oct. 20	The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, On Recommendation of the Board of Management, Appointed Three Members to the Independent Commission to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits.
17-23	Nov. 29	Social Development Tour of Addictions Treatment Facilities
17-24	Dec. 04	MLAs Attends Commonwealth Tax and Public Spending Workshop in London, United Kingdom

Tlicho Chiefs, Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Discuss Priority Issues

(YELLOWKNIFE) January 13, 2017 – Tḻicẖ Chiefs, Members of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, and Monfwi MLA Jackson Lafferty held the first meeting of its kind in Behchoḵ on Tuesday, to discuss common issues facing the region and the NWT legislature.

“The Chiefs raised many issues we are working on in the Legislative Assembly,” says Committee Chair Tom Beaulieu, “such as housing, the Tḻicẖ all-season road; early childhood education; the importance of the Tḻicẖ language, culture and way of life; and electoral boundaries. It was a very productive discussion.”

Chief Jimmy Bruneau School hosted the meeting with Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Behchoḵ Chief Clifford Daniels, WhaTi Chief Alfonz Nitsiza, Gameti Chief David Wedawin, and Wekweeti Chief Johnny Arrowmaker all in attendance.

The meeting followed two days of strategic planning and preparation for the upcoming budget session, which begins on January 31. All eleven Members of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning took part.

“The decision of cabinet members to pursue an aggressive agenda of fiscal restraint and budget cuts at a time of economic recession has been unpopular with the regular members of the 18th Assembly,” said Committee Deputy Chair Kieron Testart. “The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning believes that immediate action is needed to create jobs, stimulate growth and invest in the potential of Northerners.”

Members also attended the Chiefs’ hand games with young people at Chief Jimmy Bruneau School. “Our committee is a large one, but it is important to meet in the communities when we can,” says Mr. Beaulieu. “It helped to focus our meeting. We appreciate the warm welcome from the staffs at the Tḻicẖ Government and community government offices.”

“Regular MLAs will continue to fight for our communities and ensure that our government is investing in the future of the NWT,” added Mr. Testart.

Members also toured the new sports, recreation, and community government complex.

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Ledge Talks: 100% Renewable Energy in the NWT: Starting the Conversation

(YELLOWKNIFE) January 26, 2017 – Can the NWT supply 100% of its energy needs without fossil fuels by 2050? If you are Andrew Robinson, the answer is yes!

Mr. Robinson, an energy consultant based in Yellowknife, predicts that by 2050 there will be such a high carbon price on fossil fuels they will no longer be economically competitive.

The public forum on the future of renewable energy takes place at the Legislative Assembly on January 31, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. It is the latest edition of *Ledge Talks: The Knowledge Series*, hosted by the Legislative Library. Mr. Robinson's talk is based on a paper he produced for Alternatives North, entitled *100% Renewable Energy in the NWT by 2050: Starting the Conversation*.

His report establishes criteria and assesses over 100 renewable energy options, covering all sectors of energy use – heating, transportation, the mining industry, and electricity production.

Mr. Robinson graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Science Degree in mechanical engineering in 1996. He then went on to complete his Master's Degree in Environmental Studies at York University in 2004. He is originally from Makkovik, Labrador.

~~There will be time for questions and discussion following the presentation. Media and the public are welcome. The proceedings will be webcast via the Legislative Assembly website: www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.~~

Ledge Talks: The Knowledge Series is a forum for a wide variety of speakers to present current ideas, science, traditional knowledge, and issues relevant to the Northwest Territories and beyond. Ledge Talks will also showcase research done by many GNWT employees – often with collaborating partners – who are making substantial contributions to the world's understanding of the North.

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L'Assemblée du savoir : Une énergie entièrement renouvelable aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest : engageons la discussion

Yellowknife, le 26 janvier 2017 – Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) seront-ils en mesure de combler la totalité de leurs besoins en énergie sans utiliser de combustibles fossiles d'ici 2050? Selon Andrew Robinson, la réponse est oui!

M. Robinson, expert-conseil en énergie vivant à Yellowknife, prévoit que d'ici 2050, la tarification du carbone sera si élevée pour les combustibles fossiles qu'ils ne seront plus concurrentiels sur le plan économique.

Le forum public sur l'avenir de l'énergie renouvelable aura lieu à l'Assemblée législative le 31 janvier 2017, à 19 h 30. Il s'agit de la dernière édition de *L'Assemblée du savoir* accueillie par la bibliothèque de l'Assemblée législative. Le discours de M. Robinson se fonde sur un document qu'il a rédigé pour Alternatives North, intitulé *100% Renewable Energy in the NWT by 2050: Starting the Conversation* (Une énergie entièrement renouvelable aux TNO d'ici 2050 : engageons la discussion).

Son rapport établit des critères et évalue plus de 100 solutions d'énergie renouvelable, dans tous les secteurs : du chauffage à la production d'électricité, en passant par les moyens de transport et l'industrie minière.

M. Robinson a obtenu un baccalauréat en sciences en génie mécanique de l'Université de Waterloo en 1996, puis une maîtrise en études environnementales de l'Université York en 2004. Il est originaire de Makkovik, au Labrador.

Une période de questions et de discussion suivra la présentation. On invite les médias et le public à y participer. La présentation sera diffusée sur le site Web de l'Assemblée législative au <http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/fr>.

L'Assemblée du savoir est un forum où une panoplie d'invités prennent la parole pour présenter des idées et de l'information scientifique actuelles, du savoir traditionnel et des enjeux pertinents tant aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest que dans le monde entier. La série *L'Assemblée du savoir* permettra également de présenter les travaux de recherche effectués par de nombreux employés du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (souvent en collaboration) qui contribuent activement à faire connaître le Nord à l'échelle mondiale.

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Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning: 2017-18 Budget Priorities

(YELLOWKNIFE) January 31, 2017 – The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning has announced its priorities for the 2017-18 budget. These include job creation, modest stimulus to small business, tourism, fisheries, more home care for seniors, and measures to reduce poverty. The Committee believes these can be accomplished in a balanced, responsible budget.

The Committee is comprised of all Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly.

“The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning has thoroughly analyzed the government’s business plans provided last September,” says Committee Chair, Tom Beaulieu. “The current budget is more about cuts and is not focused on the Mandate of the 18th Assembly. Our proposals are based on what we are hearing from the people and businesses across the NWT.”

“All 19 Members set priorities that we voted on and passed unanimously in the Assembly,” added Deputy Chair, Kieron Testart. “These priorities in our Mandate are our promises to the people. It is Cabinet’s job to deliver on these promises.

“Regular Members want some modest investments that will ultimately save the government money,” Mr. Testart added. “We are urging Cabinet to take a balanced approach to the budget that suits the economic and social climate we have now.”

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Proposed Initiatives and Reductions for the 2017-18 Operations Budget

(YELLOWKNIFE) February 6, 2017 – Members of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning today provided details of the changes they recommend to improve the GNWT’s proposed budget for 2017-18. In total, they amount to less than two percent of the budget.

“The lack of clear and adequate funding for junior kindergarten is a huge problem, but there are many other important items beyond that,” noted Committee Chair Tom Beaulieu. “We want the public to know exactly where we stand, and what we have been fighting for over the past four months.

“We are against making cuts that will hurt local economies, such as interrupting ferry services. We want to create jobs, and make strategic investments to social programs, such as home care, anti-poverty initiatives, housing, and mental health and addictions,” Mr. Beaulieu added.

The Committee includes all 11 Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly. Their position on these items was clearly communicated to Cabinet in December.

“The changes we want are very specific, right down to the dollar amounts,” said Kieron Testart, the Committee’s deputy chair. “We propose stimulus for business, improvements for housing, and we oppose reductions that could compromise the environment, among other things.”

Members also have many questions about the status of proposed reductions in the Main Estimates, first seen in annual business plans last fall. These will be raised when departmental budgets are reviewed in the Legislative Assembly.

In addition, Regular Members will individually raise other budget issues important to their constituents as debate on the budget continues.

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Proposed initiatives and reductions opposed for 2017-18 Operations budget

Education, Culture and Employment

ECE initiatives

- Fully offset implementation costs of Junior Kindergarten, estimated by ECE as \$5,100,000 (with \$3,100,000 required beyond current commitments);
 - The long-term savings to government from investments in early childhood development is well-known, and is cited in *Right From the Start*.
- Further enhance the Small Community Employment Support Program, \$2,000,000 (total of \$5,000,000).
 - SCES, a subsidy program, must be modified to enable job creation.

Total department: \$5,100,000

Reductions opposed: \$600,000

- Schools, K-12 contribution, \$600,000.

Environment and Natural Resources

Reductions opposed: \$370,000

- Watershed management, \$115,000
- Corporate services, \$145,000
- Eliminate two positions, \$119,000

Health and Social Services

HSS initiatives

- Youth In Crisis suicide prevention funding, \$500,000;
 - The NWT is facing a crisis of suicides and abuse of alcohol, prescription drugs, and crack cocaine by our youth. More prevention and intervention is needed.
- Anti-Poverty funding increase, \$500,000;
 - Too little is being done to reduce widespread poverty and support the work of NGOs in this area.
- Home care services, \$1,500,000;
 - It is essential to assist seniors so they can age in their own homes. Enhanced Home Care should be introduced as soon as possible to increase the number of home care workers in all regions, and improve “handy-van” transportation services for seniors. The avoided costs of long-term care will result in substantial long-term savings.
- Mobile crisis intervention team: Work with the federal government to bring one of its mobile teams to the NWT.

Total department: \$2,500,000

Industry, Tourism and Investment

ITI initiatives

- Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) program, increase by \$1,200,000;
- Reduce tax on small businesses by 1%, \$700,000;
- Fishing industry freight support increase, \$225,000.
- Increase the Mineral Incentive Program by \$600,000;
- Ensure continued support for the Prospecting Course jointly sponsored by ITI, ECE, Mine Training Society and other partners.
- Increase the maximum amount eligible for loans by BDIC.
- Take steps to reduce the administrative complexity of establishing new businesses.

Total department: \$2,725,000

Reductions opposed: \$519,000

- Reduce Community Futures contributions, \$42,000
- Reduce BDIC annual contribution, \$477,000

Justice

Justice initiatives

- Men's healing program increase, \$600,000;
 - The Committee recommends a regional/mobile delivery model to expand access of the program beyond Yellowknife.

Total department: \$600,000

Reductions opposed: \$138,000

- Eliminate one position, \$138,000

Lands

Reductions opposed: \$572,000

- Reduce increase of Commissioner's land lease rents (implement gradual increase), \$78,000
- Reduce increase of Territorial land lease rents (implement gradual increase), \$194,000
- Operations, decrease funds for lands inspections, \$375,000
- Eliminate three positions, \$313,000.

Municipal and Community Affairs

Reductions opposed: \$265,000

- Eliminate one position, \$115,000
- Transfer multisport games contribution to new Lottery Fund, \$150,000;
 - The Committee does not support a claw back of lottery money, and recommends that lottery funds be focused on youth programming in the arts, recreation, sports, and friendship centres.

NWT Housing Corporation

NWTHC initiatives

- Increase CARE program by \$1,355,000 to provide repair programs to support seniors aging in place, (in addition to the \$500,000 initiative for SAFE)

Total corporation: \$1,355,000

Reductions opposed: \$300,000

- Reduce Transitional Rent Supplement program, \$300,000;
 - If the program is not fulfilling its goals, this should be addressed. If the program cannot be made effective, the funds should be allocated to meet other housing needs.

Transportation

Transportation initiatives

- Increase Community Access Road Program, \$700,000;
- Samba K'e winter road, \$300,000.

Total department: \$1,000,000

Reductions opposed: \$1,800,000

- Discontinue winter ferry service at Tsiigehtchic and the Peel River, \$1,800,000.

Public Works and Services

PWS initiatives

- Increase program funding for Arctic Energy Alliance, \$1,500,000;
 - ~~Broaden access to programs to improve participation by lower income residents, and enable AEA to permanently expand its work in communities.~~

Total department: \$1,500,000

Propositions d'initiatives et de réductions dans le budget de fonctionnement 2017 2018

Yellowknife, le 6 février 2017 – Les membres du Comité permanent des priorités et de la planification ont fourni des détails aujourd'hui au sujet des changements qu'ils recommandent pour améliorer le budget proposé par le GTNO pour l'exercice 2017-2018. Au total, ces changements représentent moins de deux pour cent du budget.

« Le manque de financement clair et adéquat accordé à la prématernelle est un énorme problème, mais beaucoup d'autres éléments importants sont en jeu, déclare le président du Comité, M. Tom Beaulieu. Nous voulons que le public connaisse exactement notre position, et ce pour quoi nous nous battons depuis les quatre derniers mois.

Nous ne sommes pas d'accord avec les réductions, qui nuiront aux économies locales, je pense par exemple à l'interruption des services de traversiers. Nous voulons créer des emplois et faire des investissements stratégiques dans les programmes sociaux, comme les soins à domicile, la lutte contre la pauvreté, le logement, la santé mentale et les dépendances », ajoute M. Beaulieu.

Le Comité est composé des onze simples députés de l'Assemblée législative. Leur opinion au sujet de ces éléments a été clairement communiquée au Conseil exécutif en décembre.

« Les changements que nous voulons voir sont très précis, nous allons jusqu'à mentionner des montants exacts, affirme Kieron Testart, le vice-président du Comité. Nous proposons des façons de stimuler l'économie pour les entreprises et d'améliorer le logement, et nous nous opposons aux réductions qui pourraient compromettre l'environnement, entre autres. »

Les membres ont aussi plusieurs questions à poser au sujet du statut des propositions de réductions dans le budget principal des dépenses, qui ont été mentionnées pour la première fois dans les plans d'activités annuels, l'automne dernier. Ces questions seront posées lorsque les budgets ministériels seront examinés par l'Assemblée législative.

De plus, les simples députés soulèveront chacun d'autres questions budgétaires importantes pour les résidents de leurs circonscriptions durant la suite des débats sur le budget.

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NWT Launches Daughters of the Vote Initiative: Program Encourages Young Women to Consider Politics

(YELLOWKNIFE) February 10, 2017 – The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Honourable Jackson Lafferty, is pleased to announce that the *Daughters of the Vote* NWT workshop will commence on Sunday, February 12, 2017. [*Daughters of the Vote*](#) is an initiative of Equal Voice; a national, multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of government.

Julie Green, MLA for Yellowknife Centre, attended a *Daughters of the Vote* event in Saskatchewan in October 2016. Ms. Green will chair the event and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Honourable Caroline Cochrane, has been invited as a keynote speaker. Two senior representatives from Equal Voice's national office will also be in attendance. This event coincides with the 100 year anniversary of the beginning of women's federal suffrage in Canada.

"Increasing the number of women who run for elected office is a priority of the 18th Legislative Assembly and it is events like these that will promote involvement of young women in Territorial politics. I am honoured to host this event and I look forward to meeting these promising young women; leaders of our future generations," said Speaker Lafferty.

"Young women are eager to make a difference in their communities. Through this initiative, they will grow their leadership skills and gain valuable insights from women and men currently serving in office. Equal Voice is thrilled to have the engagement of the NWT Legislative Assembly to deliver this dynamic program to diverse young women in the territory," said Nancy Peckford, Executive Director of Equal Voice.

During the workshop, participants will take part in two panel discussions: one will focus on '*What Works: Getting Elected in the NWT*'; the focus of the second panel is on the realities of becoming an elected official; both discussions will include current and former female Members of the Legislative Assembly. The participants will also receive presentations from the Chief Electoral Officer and the Status of Women Council.

The participants are:

Laney Beaulieu - Fort Resolution
Kiera Boulanger-Rowe - Hay River
Jacq Brasseur - Yellowknife
Reannda Cli - Fort Simpson
Jaylene Delorme-Buggins - Hay River
Chukita Elias-Gruben - Tuktoykatuk
Raven Firth - Inuvik

Nha Ly - Yellowknife
Janelle Nitsiza - Whati
Caona Paulette - Yellowknife
Alyssa Ross - Inuvik
Emily Smith - Yellowknife
Brianna Taniton - Délı̨nę
Olivia Villebrun - Fort Smith

Olivia Villebrun, along with 337 delegates from across the country, has been selected by Equal Voice to represent the Northwest Territories in Ottawa the week of March 6th. During the three day summit, delegates will 'take their seats' in the House of Commons on International Women's Day on March 8th.

Media are encouraged to request interviews with the participants. Interviews will take place on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 10:00 am.

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Les TNO accueillent l'initiative Héritières du suffrage, un programme qui encourage les jeunes femmes à se lancer en politique

Yellowknife, le 9 février 2017 – Le président de l'Assemblée législative, Monsieur Jackson Lafferty, est heureux d'annoncer que l'atelier des *Héritières du suffrage* des TNO commencera le dimanche 12 février 2017. Les *Héritières du suffrage* est une initiative d'*À voix égales*, un organisme national multipartite qui se consacre à faire élire plus de femmes à tous les ordres de gouvernement.

Julie Green, députée de Yellowknife Centre, a participé à un événement des *Héritières du suffrage* en Saskatchewan, en octobre 2016. Mme Green présidera l'événement, et la ministre responsable de la condition de la femme, Madame Caroline Cochrane, a été invitée à titre de conférencière principale. Deux hautes responsables du bureau national d'*À voix égales* seront aussi présentes. Cet événement coïncide avec le 100^e anniversaire de l'instauration du droit de vote pour les femmes au Canada.

« La 18^e Assemblée législative a fait de l'augmentation du nombre de femmes se présentant aux élections l'une de ses priorités. Ce sont des événements comme celui-ci qui assureront la promotion de l'implication des jeunes femmes dans la politique territoriale. C'est un honneur pour moi d'organiser cet événement, et j'ai hâte de rencontrer ces jeunes femmes porteuses d'avenir – les leaders de nos prochaines générations », déclare le président Lafferty.

« Les jeunes femmes sont enthousiastes à l'idée de changer les choses dans leurs collectivités. Cette initiative leur permettra de perfectionner leurs compétences en leadership et de profiter des précieuses connaissances de femmes et d'hommes politiques. *À voix égales* est heureuse que l'Assemblée législative des TNO participe à la prestation de ce programme dynamique auprès de jeunes femmes de divers horizons à l'échelle du territoire », affirme Nancy Peckford, directrice générale d'*À voix égales*.

Dans le cadre de l'atelier, les participantes prendront part à deux tables rondes : l'une sera sur le thème « Quoi faire pour être élue aux TNO », et l'autre traitera des réalités des représentants élus. Ces deux tables rondes réuniront d'anciennes et de nouvelles députées de l'Assemblée législative. Les participantes assisteront également à des présentations de la directrice générale des élections et de représentantes du Conseil sur la condition de la femme.

Voici la liste des participantes :

Laney Beaulieu - Fort Resolution
Kiera Boulanger-Rowe - Hay River
Jacq Brasseur - Yellowknife
Reannda Cli - Fort Simpson
Jaylene Delorme-Buggins - Hay River
Chukita Elias-Gruben - Tuktoykatuk
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Caona Paulette - Yellowknife
Alyssa Ross - Inuvik
Emily Smith - Yellowknife
Brianna Taniton - Déljng
Olivia Villebrun - Fort Smith

Olivia Villebrun a été choisie par *À voix égales*, avec plus de 337 déléguées de partout au Canada, pour représenter les Territoires du Nord-Ouest à Ottawa durant la semaine du 6 mars. Pendant ce sommet de trois jours, les déléguées « siégeront » à la Chambre des communes à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de la femme, le 8 mars.

Nous encourageons les médias à demander des entrevues avec les participantes. Ces entrevues se tiendront le mardi 14 février 2017, à 10 h.

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Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures to Present Report on Review of Members' Conduct Guidelines

(YELLOWKNIFE) February 28, 2017 – The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, chaired by Kevin O'Reilly, presented today the Report on the Review of Members' Conduct Guidelines.

The report has six recommendations (see below for list of recommendations) and will be reviewed by Members in Committee of the Whole. If accepted, steps will be taken to implement the recommendations prior to the next election.

On December 17, 2015, a motion was passed in the Legislative Assembly directing the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures to conduct a comprehensive and public review of the Members' Conduct Guidelines. The Committee presented an interim report on October 25, 2016. The Committee also held public hearings in Inuvik, Hay River, and Yellowknife and solicited written submissions from northern residents. Eight written submissions were received and a number of submissions were made during the consultation phase.

"It is vitally important for residents of the Northwest Territories to have input on Members' conduct in the Legislative Assembly. It was great to see all of the people show interest in this review, we received a lot of feedback from residents that we were able to incorporate in our report," says Mr. O'Reilly.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures inquires into matters referred to it by the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Speaker, or the Board of Management and includes four Regular Members and one Minister.

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Recommendations from the Report on the Review of the Members' Conduct Guidelines

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to provide that, during the election period, candidates declare compliance with a code of conduct including the duties to abide by the laws of the NWT and Canada; to conduct his/herself with honesty, integrity and respect for others; and, To refrain from actions that would upon election create, or be perceived to create, a conflict of interest as set out in section 74 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to include a five-year limit on eligibility for candidacy for anyone convicted of an offence of violence or threats of violence under the Criminal Code of Canada and who has not received a pardon or record suspension; and, Where the offence was committed against a person over whom the accused was determined by the presiding judge to be in a position of trust, authority or intimacy; and, If applicable, that the limitation not apply to offences committed before the coming-into-force date of this amendment; and, ~~That a consequential amendment of section 6 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* ensure consistency of qualification of sitting Members and candidates.~~

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Legislative Assembly's Oath of Office be revised in Schedule B of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* as follows:

I, (Member's name) do swear (or affirm) that:

- a) I am fully qualified to hold the office of Member for the district of _____ to which I have been elected;
- b) I have not knowingly contravened the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* respecting any matter in relation to my election;
- c) I will faithfully, to the best of my ability, perform the duties and responsibilities of my office and will not allow any direct or indirect monetary or other personal or private interest to influence my conduct or affect my duties in public matters;

d) I hereby affirm, subscribe to and agree to follow the Members' Conduct Guidelines (or Members' Code of Conduct, if applicable) adopted by the Legislative Assembly. (In the case where the oath is sworn, add "So help me God.")

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Members' Conduct Guidelines serve as the basis for a new Members' Code of Conduct including more specific and enforceable provisions; and, that the new code be presented to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* be amended to expand the duties of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to include oversight of the Members' Conduct Guidelines or Code of Conduct; that the Commissioner be empowered to receive and investigate complaints from a Member or any other person respecting breaches of prescribed conduct, and to recommend sanctions or penalties, as appropriate, to the Speaker; and, that the newly-constituted commissioner be known as the Ethics Commissioner.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that conflict-of-interest provisions of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* and other relevant legislation and policy be the subject of a public review before the end of the 18th Assembly.

Yellowknife, le 28 février 2017 – Le Comité permanent des règles et des procédures, présidé par Kevin O'Reilly, présentera aujourd'hui le rapport sur l'examen du code de conduite des députés.

Le rapport établit six recommandations (la version française des recommandations sera affichée sur notre site Web dans les plus brefs délais) qui seront examinées par les membres du Comité plénier. Si elles sont approuvées, des mesures seront prises pour les mettre en œuvre avant la prochaine élection.

Le 17 décembre 2015, l'Assemblée législative a adopté une motion ordonnant au Comité permanent des règles et des procédures d'effectuer un examen approfondi et public du code de conduite des députés. Le Comité a présenté un rapport provisoire le 25 octobre 2016. Il a également tenu des audiences publiques à Inuvik, à Hay River et à Yellowknife, et a demandé aux Ténos de lui envoyer leurs observations par écrit. Le Comité a reçu huit commentaires par écrit et a recueilli de nombreux commentaires durant les consultations.

« Il est crucial que les Ténos donnent leur avis sur la conduite des députés à l'Assemblée législative, et j'étais ravi de voir tous les gens qui se sont intéressés à cet examen. Nous avons reçu beaucoup de commentaires de résidents que nous avons intégrés dans notre rapport », déclare M. O'Reilly.

Le Comité permanent des règles et des procédures, composé de quatre simples députés et d'un ministre, fait enquête sur les questions que lui soumet l'Assemblée législative, le président ou le Bureau de régie.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez écrire à :

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Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Reaches Agreement With Cabinet

(YELLOWKNIFE) March 3, 2017 – The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning has reached agreement with Cabinet on several key items to be included in the 2017-18 budget.

After months of pressure from Regular Members and the public, the Finance Minister has agreed to include an additional \$5.5-million that will be introduced in a supplementary appropriation for the 2017-18 Operations budget. These items include \$2.5-million in additional funding for homecare across the NWT, additional funds for anti-poverty projects and youth-in-crisis, an increase to the Mineral Incentive Program, an increase to funds for community access roads, additional support for the fishing industry, and a partial restoration of funding that was to be cut from Aurora College.

“This was a very difficult process,” commented Committee Chair, Tom Beaulieu. “Our negotiations did not achieve everything we wanted, but this budget is very much improved as a result of Regular Members’ efforts. Our work has addressed people’s critical healthcare needs, employment, education, and other important priorities in this Assembly’s mandate.”

The latest addition to the 2017-18 budget comes on the heels of \$15.4-million in improvements negotiated by the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning since Business Plans were introduced last fall. That funding reversed several reductions to programs, improved funding for junior kindergarten, provided for implementation of 911 emergency telephone service, increased funds to address homelessness, and substantially boosted the Small Community Employment Support program.

“These gains were achieved through solidarity of Regular Members,” added Kieron Testart, Deputy Chair of the Committee. “It took some convincing, but Cabinet ultimately realized that there was a consensus supporting these essential improvements to the budget. ~~Changes like this to a budget are a unique feature of our consensus system.~~”

The Committee achieved these improvements through negotiation, use of Members’ Statements and Replies to the Budget, deferral of departmental budgets as they were reviewed in the Assembly, and advice to Cabinet as departmental spending was examined. Public support for the Committee’s priorities was also a key factor.

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Yellowknife, le 7 mars 2017 – Le Comité permanent des priorités et de la planification est parvenu à s’entendre avec le Conseil exécutif sur plusieurs points importants devant être intégrés au budget de 2017-2018.

Après des mois de pressions exercées par les députés ordinaires et le public, le ministre des Finances a accepté d’ajouter 5,5 millions de dollars de crédits supplémentaires au budget du fonctionnement de 2017-2018. Cette enveloppe comprend 2,5 millions de dollars de financement supplémentaire pour les soins à domicile aux TNO, des fonds pour des projets de lutte contre la pauvreté et pour les jeunes en détresse, une augmentation des fonds attribués au Programme d’encouragement aux activités minières, une augmentation des fonds attribués pour les routes d’accès aux collectivités, un coup de pouce à l’industrie de la pêche, et un rétablissement partiel des fonds initialement retirés au Collège Aurora.

« Les négociations ont été difficiles, a déclaré le président du comité, Tom Beaulieu. Nous n’avons pas pu obtenir tout ce que nous voulions, mais le budget obtenu est tout de même bien meilleur; et ce, grâce au travail sans relâche des députés ordinaires. Nous avons su entendre les besoins de la population en matière de santé, d’emploi, d’éducation et d’autres domaines importants qui entrent dans le mandat de la présente Assemblée. »

Les dernières modifications au budget de 2017-2018 arrivent peu après une augmentation de 15,4 millions de dollars, âprement négociée par le Comité permanent des priorités et de la planification, depuis la présentation des plans d’activités à l’automne dernier. Ce financement permettra d’inverser les réductions budgétaires de certains programmes, d’augmenter les fonds attribués au programme de prématernelle, de mettre en place un service de téléphone d’urgence 911, d’améliorer le financement destiné à lutter contre l’itinérance, et de relancer considérablement le Programme d’emploi dans les petites collectivités.

« Cette bataille a été remportée grâce à la solidarité des députés ordinaires, ajoute Kieron Testart, vice-président du comité. Il a fallu user de force de conviction, et le Conseil exécutif a fini par réaliser que la majorité souhaitait grandement voir une amélioration du budget. Il est possible de changer le budget grâce à notre fonctionnement unique de gouvernement de consensus. »

Pour remporter cette victoire, le comité a négocié, a utilisé les déclarations de députés et les réponses au discours du budget, a déposé des demandes de report des budgets ministériels alors qu’ils étaient examinés par l’Assemblée législative, et a formulé des recommandations au Conseil exécutif pendant qu’il examinait les dépenses ministérielles. Le soutien du public a également été un facteur déterminant pour que le comité puisse traiter ses priorités.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez écrire à :

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Standing Committee on Government Operations Present Review of Auditor General Report

(YELLOWKNIFE) March 7, 2017 – The Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Government Operations, chaired by Mr. Kieron Testart, presented today the Report on the Review of the [Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for Communities for Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories –Municipal and Community](#), which was tabled in the Assembly on October 25, 2016.

The report has seven recommendations (see below for list of recommendations) and will be reviewed by Members in Committee of the Whole.

“The Auditor General’s report found that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs did not do enough to support community governments in delivering essential services critical to the health and safety of NWT residents,” said Mr. Testart. “The committee is troubled by these findings, however we are encouraged that the Minister has accepted all of the Auditor General’s recommendations and that the department has developed a comprehensive action plan to implement them.”

“In our committee report, we made further recommendations to the Minister based on both the Auditor General’s report and the Department’s Action Plan,” said Deputy Chair R.J. Simpson. “We believe these additional recommendations will enhance the government’s attempts to address the deficiencies identified by the Auditor General.”

The Standing Committee on Government Operations has a mandate to review reports of the Auditor General, including performance audits of government departments.

For more information, please contact:

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Recommendations from the Report on the Review of the 2016 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for Municipal Services in the Northwest Territories

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations endorses the 13 recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General in its report and recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs take the steps necessary to ensure that all recommendations are implemented in a timely manner.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that, in future, any GNWT department being audited provide the Standing Committee on Government Operations with a copy of its action or implementation plan at the earliest possible opportunity and no later than three business days prior to the Public Review on the Auditor General's report consistent with the Process Convention on Communications between Cabinet Ministers, Standing Committees and Regular Members.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that any GNWT department, selected in future for an audit, provide the Standing Committee on Government Operations with a copy of its action or implementation plan in draft format and, further, that the document not be finalized until the Department has had an opportunity to consider the recommendations made as a result of the Standing Committee's review.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that Department consult with Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities on the proposed actions contained in the Action Plan before finalizing it.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department include indicators in its action plan which measure progress in implementing identified actions as a means of achieving improvements in essential service delivery at the community level.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Government Operations strongly recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs simplify its approach in responding to the Auditor General's recommendations at paragraphs 109 and 112, such that the proposed actions are responsive to the purpose and intent of each recommendation;

And further, that the Department subsequently adjust its 2019-2020 target date, identified under proposed Priority Action 109.6 to allow for a more timely response.

Recommendation 7

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government provide a response to this report within 120 days.

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales présente les résultats de son examen du Rapport du vérificateur gén

Yellowknife, le 7 mars 2017 – Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales, présidé par M. Kieron Testart, a publié aujourd’hui son rapport d’examen concernant le Rapport du vérificateur général du Canada : *Soutien relatif aux services municipaux dans les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest — Ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires*, qui a été déposé à l’Assemblée législative le 25 octobre 2016.

Le rapport d’examen compte sept recommandations (listées ci-après) et sera revu par les membres du Comité plénier.

« D’après le rapport du vérificateur général, le ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires n’a pas suffisamment soutenu les administrations communautaires dans la prestation des services essentiels à la santé et à la sécurité des Ténos », a souligné M. Testart. « Le Comité trouve ces conclusions quelque peu troublantes, mais se réjouit de voir que la ministre accepte la totalité des recommandations du vérificateur général et que le ministère a élaboré un plan d’action exhaustif pour les mettre en œuvre. »

« Dans notre rapport d’examen, nous avons formulé quelques recommandations supplémentaires à l’intention de la ministre en nous appuyant à la fois sur le rapport du vérificateur général et sur le plan d’action du ministère », a expliqué R.J. Simpson, vice-président du Comité. « Nous estimons que ces recommandations additionnelles aideront le gouvernement à combler encore mieux les lacunes relevées par le vérificateur général. »

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales a pour mandat d’examiner les rapports du vérificateur général, y compris les audits de gestion visant les ministères.

Pour plus d’information, veuillez communiquer avec :

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Recommandations tirées du rapport d'examen concernant le Rapport du vérificateur général du Canada : Soutien relatif aux services municipaux dans les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (2016)

Recommandation 1

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales appuie les 13 recommandations formulées par le Bureau du vérificateur général dans son rapport et recommande au ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires qu'il prenne les mesures nécessaires pour s'assurer que toutes les recommandations soient mises en œuvre rapidement.

Recommandation 2

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales recommande que tous les ministères du GTNO faisant l'objet d'un audit fournissent désormais au Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales une copie du plan d'action ou de mise en œuvre du ministère, avec promptitude, et au plus tard trois jours ouvrables avant l'examen public du rapport du vérificateur général, conformément à la convention sur les communications applicable entre les ministres du Conseil exécutif, les membres des comités permanents et les autres membres de l'Assemblée législative.

Recommandation 3

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales recommande que tous les ministères du GTNO devant faire l'objet d'un audit fournissent désormais au Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales une copie de l'ébauche du plan d'action ou de mise en œuvre du ministère et que ce document, par ailleurs, ne soit pas finalisé avant que le ministère en question ait eu l'occasion d'étudier les recommandations formulées à la suite de l'examen du Comité.

Recommandation 4

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales recommande au ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires qu'il consulte le Regroupement des gestionnaires des administrations locales des TNO et l'Association des collectivités des TNO au sujet des mesures qu'il propose dans son plan d'action avant de finaliser ce dernier.

Recommandation 5

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales recommande au ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires qu'il ajoute des indicateurs dans son plan d'action afin de mesurer les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre des actions ciblées pour garantir que les améliorations voulues soient apportées dans la prestation des services essentiels à l'échelle des collectivités.

Recommandation 6

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales recommande fortement au ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires qu'il simplifie son approche aux recommandations figurant aux paragraphes 109 et 112 du Rapport du vérificateur général, de sorte que les mesures proposées soient en adéquation avec le but et l'esprit de chaque recommandation.

De plus, le Comité recommande au ministère qu'il ajuste subséquemment la date cible de 2019-2020 proposée pour la mesure prioritaire 109.6 en vue de permettre une réponse plus rapide.

Recommandation 7

Le Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales recommande que le gouvernement fournisse une rétroaction au présent rapport dans un délai de 120 jours.

Standing Committee on Social Development Correspondence Released

YELLOWKNIFE) April 6, 2017 – Today the Standing Committee on Social Development released its correspondence on classroom instructional hours and the Junior Kindergarten Program, as well as its replies from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

“Children’s time in school sets the stage for their future success,” said Committee Chair Shane Thompson. “We know how much both of these issues matter to students, parents, and educators, and we want to provide the public with the same information used by our Committee. We want Northerners to know where their representatives stand.”

The Committee will also host public hearings on Bill 16: *An Act to Amend the Education Act* in Yellowknife on April 7, 2017, in Inuvik on April 10th, and in Hay River on April 12th. Written submissions are welcome.

Committee members include Shane Thompson (Nahendeh), Julie Green (Yellowknife Centre), Tom Beaulieu (Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh), Frederick Blake Jr. (Mackenzie Delta), and Michael M. Nadli (Deh Cho).

If you would like one of the attached documents in any of the official languages, please contact 867-767-9130 ext. 12017.

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Yellowknife, le 6 avril 2017 – Le Comité permanent des affaires sociales a publié aujourd’hui sa correspondance concernant la mise en œuvre du programme de prématernelle et les heures d’enseignement, ainsi que les réponses qu’il a obtenues du ministère de l’Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation.

« Le temps que les enfants passent à l’école les prépare à mieux réussir dans l’avenir, a déclaré Shane Thompson, président du Comité. Nous savons à quel point ces questions ont de l’importance pour les élèves, les parents et les éducateurs. C’est pourquoi nous souhaitons faire part au public de l’information à laquelle nous avons eu accès. Nous voulons que les Ténos connaissent la position de leurs représentants. »

Le Comité tiendra également des audiences publiques sur le projet de loi n° 16 : *Loi modifiant la Loi sur l’éducation* à Yellowknife le 7 avril 2017, à Inuvik le 10 avril 2017 et à Hay River le 12 avril 2017. Vous pouvez aussi nous faire parvenir vos commentaires par écrit.

Le Comité est composé de Shane Thompson (Nahendeh), Julie Green (Yellowknife Centre), Tom Beaulieu (Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh), Frederick Blake Jr (Delta du Mackenzie) et Michael Nadli (Deh Cho).

Pour obtenir l’un des documents ci-joints dans toute langue officielle des TNO, composez le 867-767-9130, poste 12017.

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HONOURABLE ALFRED MOSES
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT

MAR 09 2017

Briefing on Junior Kindergarten Implementation

Thank you for the February 23, 2017 public briefing provided to the Standing Committee on Social Development on junior kindergarten (JK) implementation. As this meeting was shortened to accommodate the sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Committee seeks the Minister's response to the written comments and questions below. Further, please be advised that the Committee intends to make public both this letter and the department's response. A response is requested by the end of March 2017.

Committee oversight and departmental communications

It is the Committee's responsibility to oversee the government's work, including the review of its budgets and departments' performance, and this responsibility necessitates the government's timely and full provision of clear, accurate information. However, as with STIP, the department's communications with both Members and the public respecting JK have not met this need.

Instead, Members have invested significant time and effort in Committee and in the House to deciphering the department's intentions, including Members' ongoing efforts to secure full and adequate JK funding. To some extent, such work is what we as Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly have collectively committed to; however, Northerners at large, who have a right to transparent and accurate information, have also suffered from this lack of clarity. The department's approach to both projects has restricted the Committee's ability to meaningfully perform its duties.

The Committee continues its review of Bill 16 – *An Act to Amend the Education Act* and again notes its disappointment that the department has put Members in a difficult position by making significant policy changes in advance of supporting legislation.

Funding

JK funding remains inadequate and is the Committee's primary concern. As departmental staff have stated, the department's funding formula is merely an allocation tool, not a tool to determine funding adequacy. Compliance with the letter of the law does not fulfill its spirit.

Page 1 of 4

The current plan fails to appropriately account for inclusive schooling, Aboriginal language instruction, student transportation (including bus monitors), or childcare impacts. When the department suggests that existing resources may simply be redistributed throughout a given board or authority to cover increased needs, it suggests that schools will not be "fully funded" and indicates an expectation that boards and authorities must make internal reductions to cover shortfalls induced by JK implementation. Further, the Committee is concerned that while the department's intention to fund JK at a staffing ratio of 12:1 falls within the legislated ratio of 16:1, Bill 16 does not propose to enshrine the former in legislation. The Committee expects that the department will continue to meet, or better, this commitment in the years to come.

Specific to inclusive schooling, the department states that it meets its responsibilities by funding schools above the current legislative minimum, while the Minister also suggested in the recent briefing that JK students following a play-based curriculum may naturally be expected to require less support. ECE's data on NWT children's school readiness contradicts this. Further, while JK will be funded at a pupil-teacher ratio of 12:1, this does not necessarily guarantee a JK teacher in each school. The need for specialized support remains.

1. Please provide further detail on the department's research findings regarding support services needs in JK-aged children within the education system.
2. Please provide additional detail on planned new program support teacher positions/funding for the 2017-18 school year, and the source of funding, including how funding is calculated, for this initiative.
3. Please provide further detail on the rationale behind the trigger point for additional mid-year funding to schools (eight-per-cent or 10-student enrolment increase).
4. Please provide the Committee with a copy of, or a link to, the "Day in JK" video. Please identify the cost of the video, including development, production, and distribution.
5. Please provide further detail on how the department is collecting data on current busing costs across the territory. Please indicate the expected completion date for the department and education authorities' review, and upon completion, provide the review's findings to the Committee.

After-school and professional-development-day care

The department has outlined the potential for JK to result in significant savings to families, up to \$12,000 per year in daycare costs. Yet this claim accounts for neither the cost nor availability of childcare, particularly in non-standard hours (e.g., after school) or at random intervals (e.g., to cover professional development days). The *Government of the Northwest*

*Territories Response to Motion 25-18(2): Junior Kindergarten*¹ explicitly states that "JK will... open opportunities for parents to consider entry into the workforce and/or to attend school or training." If JK is indeed intended to enable parents to work outside the home, childcare for hours not spent in school will be, in the absence of universal daycare, an unavoidable expense to be borne by parents. It is then disingenuous to communicate to Northerners that JK is a free program that will bring additional savings to participating NWT families.

6. The Committee recommends that all future departmental communications respecting junior kindergarten reflect this reality.
7. The Committee recommends that the department's universal daycare action plan (expected this fall and in draft to Committee prior to that time) address childcare needs specifically emerging from junior kindergarten implementation.

Existing Programming

8. Please provide an update on the department's engagement with the Aboriginal Head Start program (AHS), including further detail on how the department intends to build from successes in Fort McPherson and Ndilo.

Other

9. Please identify the number of four-year-olds currently enrolled in existing JK programs, where possible, the ratio of those enrolled to those not enrolled.
10. Please identify those communities which during the JK pilot phase either chose not to offer junior kindergarten or implemented, then ended, the program, as well as their reasons for doing so (e.g., insufficient resources, lack of interest/four-year-old children, etc.).



Shane Thompson
Chair
Standing Committee on
Social Development

Distribution List

¹ Tabled Document 288-18(2), February 21, 2017.

**cc: Committee Members
Principal Secretary
Secretary to Cabinet
Deputy Minister, Education, Culture and Employment
Committee Staff**

HONOURABLE ALFRED MOSES
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT

MAR 08 2017

Briefing on Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practices Pilot Initiative

Thank you for the February 21, 2017 public briefing provided to the Standing Committee on Social Development on the Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practices Pilot Initiative (STIP). Please be advised that the Committee intends to make public both this letter and the department's response. A response is requested by the end of March 2017.

Committee oversight and departmental communications

First, while departmental communications suggest that STIP has been introduced to address low graduation rates, the recent briefing instead indicated that the focus on teacher wellness emerged during collective bargaining, itself driven by reduction targets set by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Indeed, overall communications ~~have caused significant confusion, further complicated by negative public reactions and~~ the circulation of incorrect information, as was predicted in the department's initial legislative proposal. Without clear departmental messaging, members of the public questioned our education system's ability to fulfill graduation requirements, sought the research that the department held but was not made easily accessible, wondered how STIP would be evaluated, and questioned boards and authorities whose teaching staff had negotiated in good faith with the government. Members, who do not oppose targeted initiatives to improve teacher wellness, have dedicated significant time and effort to clarifying these matters.

Second, the department's planning with respect to the Committee's role and authority has been inadequate. Either the department finds tolerable the risk of being able to deliver only a fraction of the "up to 100 hours" committed to during its negotiations with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, or it presumes the Committee will accommodate the legislative changes required to fulfill the government's bargaining commitments. Neither is acceptable to the Committee.

The Committee continues its review of Bill 16 – *An Act to Amend the Education Act*, but again notes its disappointment with the difficult position in which the department has placed Members by acting on policy changes in advance of supporting legislation.

Page 1 of 3

Additional comments and questions

The Committee seeks the Minister's response to the recommendations and questions below.

1. The Committee recommends that in future the department take a leadership role in communications, deferring to the boards and authorities only where matters are distinctly within the latter's purview. While the boards and authorities are responsible for implementing finalized plans according to their available resources, the Minister is accountable for the actions and decisions of the department. If the government is willing to propose a project such as STIP during collective bargaining, the Minister alone must be prepared to explain and defend that decision.
2. As discussed during the recent briefing, please provide the Committee with the department's negotiating mandate as it led to the memorandum of understanding addressing STIP.¹ The Committee understands that this particular information may be provided in confidence.
3. Please provide further detail on the department's research findings respecting connections between instructional hours and teacher wellness, and instructional hours and student achievement (particularly graduation rates), including data-based rationales for linking such measures.
4. Please provide further detail on how the Government of Alberta's work with a similar pilot project has informed the department's work on STIP.
5. Please provide further detail on the current instructional hours and hours of operation for each of the territorial boards and authorities (or individual schools, where these vary).
6. Please provide further detail on the department's plan for ongoing evaluation of STIP, including the committees reviewing STIP project proposals. How will the department measure STIP's success?

How will the department track changes in teacher workload and wellness, and against what baseline(s)? The Committee does not agree that comparison between a teacher's workload (identified as 52 hours per week) and the formal

¹ *Memorandum of Understanding between the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories: Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practices.*
https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/sites/www.ece.gov.nt.ca/files/resources/mou_stip_reference.pdf

working hours of a full-time government employee (37.5 hours per week) yields useful conclusions.

Does the department currently track teachers' sick days, long-term disability rates, and retention rates, or identified grade levels in NWT schools? If not the, the Committee recommends that it do so. What other performance measures will be tracked?

7. The department has referred to evaluating STIP at the end of each year. If after the first year, or later, data indicates that STIP is not delivering improvements as expected, both in teacher wellness and in student outcomes, how would the department respond? Are the proposed changes reversible if STIP is ineffective?
8. Please provide further detail on how the department would proceed in the 2017-18 school year in the absence of the necessary amendments to the *Education Act*.

The Committee looks forward to receiving your timely response.



Shane Thompson
Chair
Standing Committee on
Social Development

cc: Committee Members
Principal Secretary
Secretary to Cabinet
Deputy Minister, Education, Culture and Employment
Committee Staff



APR 03 2017

LOG# _____

MAR 31 2017

MR. SHANE THOMPSON
CHAIRPERSON
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Response to Briefing on Junior Kindergarten Implementation

Thank you for the March 09, 2017 follow-up to the briefing on Junior Kindergarten (JK) implementation. As you are aware, JK is an evidence-based approach that will assist in putting children in the best position possible to succeed as they enter into and move through the education system.

Data from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) has clearly shown us that many Northwest Territories (NWT) children are vulnerable in one or more critical development areas, reflecting the need for investment. In fact, EDI data has shown that 38 percent of 5-year old children in the NWT are vulnerable in one area of their development as compared to 25 percent in the rest of Canada. In small communities, as many as 53 percent of 5-year olds are vulnerable in one area.

The implementation of JK meets the GNWT commitment to ensure the territory has free, play-based care for 4-year olds and will provide parents and families with access to high quality early childhood programming regardless of income or geographic location.

Please find responses to your questions on JK implementation below:

- 1. Please provide further detail on the department's research findings regarding support services needs in JK-aged children within the education system.*

JK is an optional program for which parents may choose to enroll their child full-day, half-day, or not at all; therefore, it is not possible to predict the support needs of the JK-aged children within the education system. However, all schools in the NWT follow the Ministerial Directive on Inclusive Schooling (2016) which is focused on supporting success for all students through collaborative support systems that enable teachers to best meet the diverse needs in their classrooms.

Through the NWT Inclusive Schooling model, each school's school-based support team may include a wide variety of members such as the principal, program support teacher, classroom teacher, parents, students (when appropriate), regional inclusive schooling coordinator, and superintendent. As well, there may be support from other related service providers and professionals from other departments, such as the Department of Health and Social Services. The school-based support team works together to problem solve and develop strategies to support classroom teachers in meeting students' needs and to reduce barriers to learning. As with all students, children with exceptionalities entering JK will have access to these existing school supports.

- 2. Please provide additional detail on planned new program support teacher positions/funding for the 2017-18 school year, and the source of funding, including how funding is calculated, for this initiative.*

The funding for Program Support Teachers (PSTs) is based on the number of students enrolled in any particular school. The specific formula is as follows:

- If there are less than 30 students enrolled in a school, funding for 0.5 PST is provided;
- If there are more than 30 and less than 119 students enrolled, funding for 1.0 PST is provided; and
- For 119 students or more, a school is provided funding based on enrolment divided by 119 up to a maximum of 3.25 PSTs.

In the 2017-2018 school year, the NWT Education Authorities will receive funding for 71.97 full time equivalent PST positions as compared to the 71.22 PST positions in the 2016-2017 school year.

- 3. Please provide further detail on the rationale behind the trigger point for additional mid-year funding to schools (eight per-cent or 10-student enrolment increase).*

Based on the NWT School Funding Framework (Framework), contributions to Education Authorities are calculated based on prior-year student enrolments. During the school year, there may be unexpected significant increases to student enrolment that would require additional funding to support expenditures for current year actual enrolments. This is referred to as "Extraordinary Enrolment Funding".

Extraordinary Enrolment Funding is provided when the community student enrolment is greater than eight percent and there is an increase of at least ten full time equivalent students. This has been included in the Framework to identify situations where additional teaching staff and operations and maintenance funding are necessary. The additional funding calculation is done once the student enrolments for the current school year are finalized.

4. *Please provide the Committee with a copy of, or a link to, the "Day in JK" video. Please identify the cost of the video, including development, production, and distribution.*

The link to the JK video can be found on the contractor's Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/208168731>. All permissions and family consent have been collected. The complete cost of the video, including consultation, development, and production is \$10,000, a copy of the invoice is attached.

Distribution costs for the 2016-2017 fiscal year are expected to be approximately \$5,000; to be shown at theatres in Yellowknife and Hay River. Additional distribution will include websites, Facebook pages and YouTube.

5. *Please provide further detail on how the department is collecting data on current busing costs across the territory. Please indicate the expected completion date for the department and education authorities' review, and upon completion, provide the review's findings to the Committee.*

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), in consultation with the Department of Transportation, is currently reviewing the requirements for the safe transportation of 4-year olds. Once this information is collected it will help inform discussions with transportation vendors including the additional costs for Education Authorities. Once this information is known and collected, ECE will assess and potentially bring forward as part of the supplementary estimates in the fall 2017.

6. *The Committee recommends that all future departmental communications respecting junior kindergarten reflect this reality.*

Parents who choose to enroll their child in JK, even with any potential after-school costs, will pay far less than the fees that they would need to pay to have their child enrolled in full-day childcare.

JK will bring additional savings to parents who may consider entry into the workforce and/or who wish to attend school or training. Currently, parents may pay up to \$12,000 annually for full-day child care. With the territorial implementation of free, play-based JK, parents may only incur the costs of out-of-school care, if needed, which is significantly less than full-day care.

7. *The Committee recommends that the department's universal daycare action plan address childcare needs specifically emerging from junior kindergarten implementation.*

As committed to in the GNWT Mandate, a draft action plan for universal child care will be developed by March, 2018. Committee will be provided multiple opportunities to contribute to the development of this important initiative.

8. *Please provide an update on the department's engagement with the Aboriginal Head Start program (AHS), including further detail on how the department intends to build from successes in Fort McPherson and Ndilo.*

ECE has met with AHS staff on a number of occasions to address concerns they have raised regarding JK and, at the request of AHS staff, included a Healing Circle led by an Elder and professional counselor to strengthen relationships with AHS and ECE staff. The investment of time, finances, and energy into these meetings illustrate ECE's commitment to work in partnership with AHS programs. Through engagement with both AHS and school staff in Ndilo and Fort McPherson, ECE will support Education Authorities in the remaining six communities offering AHS with decisions regarding full-day or half-day scheduling and programming that best suits the needs of families.

9. *Please identify the number of 4-year-olds currently enrolled in existing JK programs, where possible, the ratio of those enrolled to those not enrolled.*

There are currently 120 JK students registered for the current 2016-2017 school year in 20 communities. According to Statistics Canada, there are 127 4-year olds in those 20 communities that offer JK (excluding Ndilo as population data could not be separated from Yellowknife). Thus, the percentage of those enrolled who can currently access JK is approximately 94 percent.

10. Please identify those communities which during the JK pilot phase either chose not to offer junior kindergarten or implemented, then ended, the program, as well as their reasons for doing so (e.g., insufficient resources, lack of interest/four-year-old children, etc.).

Of the 29 small communities with the option of JK implementation, there are 20 communities that have chosen to implement JK in their schools for the 2016-2017 school year. Of these, 16 have chosen to continually implement JK for all three consecutive years. Aklavik and Fort McPherson discontinued JK but have since decided to implement JK this year. When first introduced, Sachs Harbour, Sambaa K'e, and Jean Marie River did not have 4-year olds to register for JK. Sachs Harbour and Jean Marie River now have 4-year olds and offer JK in their schools. Nahanni Butte had a 4-year old registered and attending JK earlier this year, but that child has since moved out of the community.

For the 2016-2017 school year, nine communities do not offer JK. The communities of Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì, and Délı̄nę have not implemented JK as the Tłı̄chọ Government and Tłı̄chọ Community Services Agency finalize details regarding early childhood programming in their region. Paulatuk, Fort Providence, Kátł'odeeche, and Fort Resolution discontinued JK implementation. Sambaa K'e is undergoing construction in the school and felt that this year would not be an ideal time to add more students.

The regional centres of Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith, and capital city of Yellowknife have not yet had the opportunity to implement JK.

Thank you to the Committee for its interest in the territorial implementation of JK programming for the 2017-2018 school year. JK is an investment in all children in the NWT and is in alignment with the 18th Assembly's mandate which calls for free play-based care for 4-year olds.



Alfred Moses
Minister, Education, Culture
and Employment

Attachment

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

Principal Secretary
Secretary to Cabinet
Deputy Minister, Education, Culture and Employment
Committee Clerk



Government of Northwest Territories / Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

REQUEST – A/P VOUCHER

March 15, 2017

Bus Unit: ECE01

Invoice No.: 195

Vendor Name: Artless Collective Inc.

Invoice Date: March 13, 2017

Vendor ID: 0002011988

Description: JK Promo

PO#:

Comments:

Line	Org.	Acct.	Fund	Area	Sett.	Prog.	Bus Unit	Project	Activity	Source	Cat	SubCat	Amount
1	71019	53280	01	11	005	65202	ECE01	6276	1	Other	Other	Other	\$5,000.00
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
												Total	\$5,000.00

Arleen Canadien-Gargan
Prepared by

March 15, 2017
Date

Expenditure Authority
Debbie Mutford

03/15/17
Date
Acting Director

Payment Authority

BA 3/15/17.

aRTLeSS Collective Inc.
Po Box 217 Station Main
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N2



GNWT - ECE
Krystal Pidborochynski

Invoice # 0000195
Invoice Date March 13, 2017
Balance Due (CAD) \$5,000.00

Task	Time Entry Notes	Rate	Hours	Line Total
Production	JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN: Promo a 30-60 teaser for theatre +web	0.00	0	0.00

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Line Total
Pre-Production	Promo: Consult / Concept Delivery / Tech Prep	2,500.00	0.5	1,250.00
Production	1 Day Shoot: Promo	2,500.00	0.5	1,250.00
Post-Production	Promo: Logging / Edits / Delivery / Review	2,500.00	1	2,500.00

Total 5,000.00
Amount Paid 0.00
Balance Due (CAD) \$5,000.00

Terms

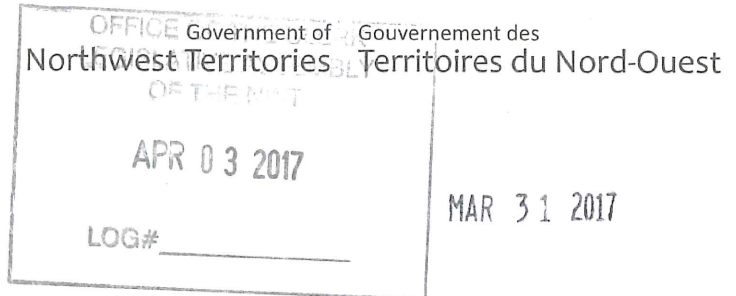
Your invoice is due upon receipt. All payments should be made out to ARTLESS COLLECTIVE INC.

Payment options include:

Direct email money transfer to info@artlesscollective.com
VISA, or MASTERCARD (subject to a 5% handling fee).
If paying by cheque, please contact us ahead of time to arrange details.

If you have any questions about this bill, please contact us immediately. Thanks for the work!

444-8382
Vendor 2011988



MR. SHANE THOMPSON
CHAIRPERSON
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Response to Questions Regarding
Strengthening Teachers Instructional Practices Initiative**

Thank you for your letter of March 08, 2017, in response to the public briefing provided on February 21, 2017.

I am pleased to provide the following responses to Committee's questions and recommendations in regards to the three-year Strengthening Teachers Instructional Practices Pilot Initiative (STIP).

- 1. The Committee recommends that in future the department take a leadership role in communications, deferring to the boards and authorities only where matters are distinctly within the latter's purview. While the boards and authorities are responsible for implementing finalized plans according to their available resources, the Minister is accountable for the actions and decisions of the department. If the government is willing to propose a project such as STIP during collective bargaining, the Minister alone must be prepared to explain and defend that decision.*

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is continuously working with Education Bodies and with the Northwest Territories Teacher's Association (NWTTA) on programming, planning, professional training and development, financial, capital and human resource needs.

Over the past several years, this has included wide-ranging discussion on issues directly related to the STIP including teacher work load and wellness issues and the need for teachers to have on-going professional development, training and collaborative planning opportunities.

As Minister, I meet regularly with Education Board Chairpersons and with NWTTA staff and members. ECE staff meets regularly with Education Superintendents, Board Education Consultants and with NWTTA staff. ECE staff also provide in-service and teacher and principal training to schools throughout the Northwest Territories (NWT).

.../2

I plan to continue this collaborative relationship with both Education Bodies and with the NWTTA so that we can work together as one cohesive system to ensure appropriate and effective support for our NWT teachers, school administrators and support staff.

- 2. As discussed during the recent briefing, please provide the Committee with the department's negotiating mandate as it led to the memorandum of understanding addressing STIP. The Committee understands that this particular information may be provided in confidence.*

Negotiating mandates are subject to Cabinet confidence and therefore cannot be shared. However, I wish to assure Committee that ECE engagements with the NWTTA around STIP were not driven by fiscal restraints.

The Department knows that in order to improve our students' academic results, we need our teachers to have the time during their regular work week and school year to plan, implement and assess their students' learning. We also know that teachers need to have proper time to learn new ways of teaching that are required to help our students be highly engaged in their learning and as a result be successful in their studies.

~~The Education Renewal Framework states that the GNWT will do its part to ensure that our NWT educators have access to experiences and resources that help manage their workload and improve wellness in order for them to focus on excellence in teaching. The rationale behind this is that increasing educator professional capacity and efficacy is key to improved learning environments for JK-12 students. Teachers are the single greatest influence on student achievement and therefore their wellness, professional growth and support are of paramount importance in our education system.~~

- 3. Please provide further detail on the department's research findings respecting connections between instructional hours and teacher wellness, and instructional hours and student achievement (particularly graduation rates); including data-based rationales for linking such measures.*

As was indicated during the presentation to Committee on February 21, 2017, teacher wellness is not impacted by instructional hours alone. A range of other factors also impact teacher wellness, including: classroom complexity, school climate, relationships with administrators and colleagues, student behavioural issues, time allocated for preparation, and total work time. Hence, it is important to not draw overarching conclusions based on correlations between only two variables, such as instructional time and teacher wellness.

Teacher workload and wellness concerns have been identified as part of all workload studies conducted across Canada. In Canada, instructional hours vary somewhat by province, but teachers typically report working 50-55 hours per week. One of the common concerns is the amount of time teachers spend working outside of the instructional day, which negatively impacts work-life balance. This is true in the NWT as well.

Another common concern is an inadequate amount of preparation time allocated within the school day. Most Canadian jurisdictions allot a specified amount of preparation time for teachers during the school day. This varies considerably from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. At the upper end, Quebec and Ontario provide approximately 152 and 252 hours of preparation time, per teacher, per school year, respectively.

However, in the NWT there is no guaranteed minimum prep time for teachers. In the ECE Teacher Time and Workload Study, participating teachers reported working over 17 hours per week outside of the regular teacher instructional days (8:00-4:00 Monday-Friday), namely on evenings and weekends. The teachers in the study reported that most of this time was spent on planning, assessing and reporting. Teachers have voiced concerns around this, and highlighted the need for embedded preparation time.

The three-year STIP pilot initiative is anticipated to address many of the concerns around instructional time and help bring greater equity in teacher preparation time across NWT schools by guaranteeing time to prepare for lessons, to assess student work, and to report student progress by embedding this time into the regular teacher work day, work week and school year. Additionally, STIP focuses on embedding structured time for collaborative professional learning. A significant international report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (TALIS 2014), amongst others, concluded that ongoing embedded time for professional collaboration and learning is associated with higher job satisfaction and teacher efficacy. The STIP initiative aims to make improvements in these areas by focusing on strengthening teaching practice through professional learning communities.

With regard to the connection between graduation rates and instructional time, our analyses, based on data from Statistics Canada, show that the six provinces that reduced instructional time from the early 2000s to the current period all had improved graduation rates, with the exception of British Columbia. For the two jurisdictions that made a small increase to their instructional hours, one had a substantial decrease in their graduation rate (Saskatchewan) and the other a steady increase (Nova Scotia).

As the Standing Committee is aware, there are a wide range of factors in each jurisdiction that may contribute to changes in graduation rates. We do not expect our experience in the NWT to be any different. Instructional time alone will not make graduation rates increase dramatically in the NWT. Student performance in school is a result of many factors including quality, relevance and engaging high quality teaching strategies and instruction, and ensuring the provision of a safe and supportive learning environment.

The best studies apply statistical procedures to account for many of the potential factors that influence student achievement, such as school characteristics and socio-economic status, amongst others. These studies largely conclude that there is no correlation between total instructional time and student achievement, where instructional time falls within ranges typically found world-wide (~650-1200 hours per year) (Baker et al., 2004; Long, 2014). The main conclusions drawn in the research literature state that jurisdictions should not focus on instructional time to improve student outcomes; rather that the focus should be on improving the quality of instruction and the curriculum (OECD, 2014; Noonan, 2007; Hattie, 2015; Hattie, 2009; Baker et al., 2004; Long, 2014, etc.).

Research further suggests that improving teaching quality through collaborative practice, such as professional learning communities, shows promise in improving student outcomes (Hattie, 2015; Vescio et al. 2008, Darling-Hammond et al., 2009). The three-year STIP initiative is centered on this evidence-based research and is focused on the use of the new available time to develop teachers' instructional practice through professional learning communities and dedicated planning time (areas that research has shown to show great promise).

4. *Please provide further detail on how the Government of Alberta's work with a similar pilot project has informed the department's work on STIP.*

A major difference between the NWT and Alberta education systems is that Alberta funds their schools on a 'credit acquisition' basis, with these credits tied directly to 25 hours of instructional time per credit (often referred to as 'Carnegie Units'). The NWT has never used this approach for funding schools.

In 2008 Alberta began a pilot project (the 'High School Flex Project') which allowed a small number of schools to re-organize instructional time to meet the needs of students and to continue to be funded without a direct connection to the number of Carnegie Units delivered or credits acquired. Schools could organize instructional time in ways that provided differentiated time for students (some could access less than 125 hours for a 5 credit course, some might require more than that amount). Timetables in these schools began to reflect these differences. ECE along with several NWT Education Authorities' staff participated in professional development sessions where schools were developing and sharing their plans and experiences of this renewed approach to meeting students learning needs.

By 2016 approximately two-thirds of Alberta high schools were participating in this pilot project, now called the High School Flexibility Enhancement Project. The 1000 hours of instruction described in Alberta's Guide to Education, therefore, does not apply to the majority of high schools in that province. Even after several years of this pilot, Alberta is hesitant to draw conclusions in relation to the impact the modified timetabling may be having on things like graduation rates. They do, however, feel confident that by allowing schools to implement these measures there have been positive qualitative impacts on their schools such as improved school climate, student engagement, collaborative practice, guidance, tutoring, etc.

Alberta is aware that some of the shift they need to pursue in their schools is not just a redirection of instructional hours, but a shift in *how* instruction and learning are happening. A focus in professional development for teachers that explores 21st century competencies and how teachers can effectively engage in new ways of teaching has been central to the *Alberta K-12 Education Redesign* work that Alberta is undertaking. ECE and NWT Education Authorities have participated in several of these workshops, and the experience of Alberta schools is informing the work of schools in the NWT. Yellowknife Catholic Schools, for example, are re-structuring their school timetables in ways that build on the experience of Alberta schools.

A major step in supporting the shift in teaching and learning reflected in Alberta's *Education Redesign* and their revision of instructional time is the renewal of curriculum that supports these changes. In October 2016, Alberta began renewing all of their K-12 curricula. The draft Framework for these curricula is nearing completion and the development of student learning outcomes for K-4 in all subjects will begin in the fall of 2017. The NWT is a partner in this renewal work, and is participating in all K-12 subject area Expert Working Groups.

5. *Please provide further detail on the current instructional hours and hours of operation for each of the territorial boards and authorities (or individual schools, where these vary).*

Please see the attached table of all NWT schools' 2016-2017 school year instructional hours. You will note that all schools meet and exceed the respective minimum hours of instruction with the exception of the Commission scolaire francophone, who are 20 minutes below for grades 1 to 6, and YK1, who are 1.5 hours below for grades 1 to 6 and 4.2 hours below at each school for grades 7-12 except for École Sir John Franklin High School.

6. *Please provide further detail on the department's plan for ongoing evaluation of STIP, including the committees reviewing STIP project proposals. How will the department measure STIP's success? How will the department track changes in teacher workload and wellness, and against what baseline(s)? The Committee does not agree that comparison between a teacher's workload (identified as 52 hours per week) and the formal working hours of a full-time government employee (37.5 hours per week) yields useful conclusions.*

A joint committee made up of representatives from ECE, the NWT Superintendents Association (NWTSA) and the NWTTA reviews each STIP proposal submitted by NWT schools for the 2017-2018 school year. The committee's approval is required before any change can be made to a school calendar.

This joint committee is also developing an evaluation plan that will identify appropriate ways to measure the success of the STIP initiative. This planning process includes defining what success for STIP will look like taking into consideration the multitude of variables that could be considered, recognizing that any significant change will take time and that the actual evaluation itself will likely evolve as schools try new approaches.

The STIP committee has noted that each school may have slightly, or significantly, different numbers of redirected instructional hours, and a range of ways that this redirected time will be used. All redirected time in every STIP proposal must nevertheless fall within the parameters set out in the initiative and be divided between the categories of 'individual' and 'collaborative' planning, learning, assessment, reporting and training.

Similar to Alberta's experience with their High School Redesign project, we would not expect STIP evaluation tools to look for immediate changes in graduation rates or some other equivalent measure, though over the length of the ten year Education Renewal Framework timelines, these might legitimately be used.

The draft evaluation plan will be completed by the end of the 2016-2017 school year and I will share it with Committee at that time.

7. Does the department currently track teachers' sick days, long-term disability rates, and retention rates, or identified grade levels in NWT schools? If not the, the Committee recommends that it do so. What other performance measures will be tracked?

Yes. GNWT teacher's sick days and long-term disability are tracked through the Department of Human Resources administrative records. Retention rates are tracked through the Office of the Registrar of Teacher Certification within ECE.

The joint STIP committee will identify a variety of performance measures which will be outlined in the evaluation plan to be completed by the end of the current 2016-2017 school year.

8. The department has referred to evaluating STIP at the end of each year. If after the first year, or later, data indicates that STIP is not delivering improvements as expected, both in teacher wellness and in student outcomes, how would the department respond? Are the proposed changes reversible if STIP is ineffective?

As noted above, a joint committee is developing an evaluation plan for the three-year STIP pilot. The evaluation plan will include a reporting schedule that will outline what appropriate and reasonable measures will be collected and reported on, and when those reports will take place.

The focus of the three-year evaluation will be on continuous learning and improving overall teaching practice in the NWT through the collection of promising practices. STIP is only one initiative of many in Education Renewal that we envision will impact teacher wellness and student outcomes in the long term.

Results from STIP will be carefully looked at to determine whether the pilot is having the impacts expected and adjustments will be made based on the evidence collected.

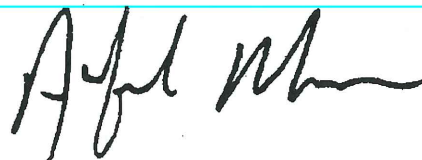
9. Please provide further detail on how the department would proceed in the 2017-18 school year in the absence of the necessary amendments to the Education Act.

ECE, the NWTTA, the NWTSA and Education Bodies will continue to work together to ensure that teachers and students are given the best opportunities for professional development and training and provided the resources and opportunities to be successful.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the GNWT and NWTTA commits the parties to work together over the life of the Collective Agreement to explore a range of evidence-based possibilities that may have a positive impact on teacher effectiveness and improved student outcomes. The GNWT and the NWTTA will continue to be committed to working together to honour the commitments made within the GNWT/NWTTA Collective Agreement.

Additionally, it should be noted that the *Education Act* sets the minimum annual hours of instruction and maximum daily hours of instruction for students. ECE has determined that there is sufficient flexibility between these existing limits to implement the pilot. The proposed amendments to the *Education Act* will create greater flexibility in implementing the pilot while at the same time, bring the NWT more in line with the average minimum hours of instruction in Canada.

I wish to take this opportunity to again thank the Committee for its interest in this very important initiative.



Alfred Moses
Minister, Education, Culture
and Employment

Attachment

- c. Principal Secretary
Secretary to Cabinet
Deputy Minister, Education, Culture and Employment
Committee Clerk

**SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS, 2016-2017
INSTRUCTION HOURS FOR STUDENT**

Legislated Requirement	485.0	997.0	1045.0
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Community	School	K	1 to 6	7 to 12
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BEAUFORT-DELTA				
Aklavik	Moose Kerr	933.0	997.0	1083.0
Fort McPherson	Chief Julius	859.2	1013.0	1063.4
Ulukhaktok	Helen Kalvak Elihaktiv	1001.0	1001.0	1046.5
Inuvik	East Three Elementary	1059.0	1030.0	n/a
Inuvik	East Three Secondary	n/a	n/a	1068.0
Paulatuk	Angik	986.0	1006.0	1066.5
Sachs Harbour	Inualthuyak	1041.0	1041.0	1079.0
Tsiigehtchic	Chief Paul Niditchie	760.5	1021.0	1082.3
Tuktoyaktuk	Mangilaluk	1020.0	1020.0	1080.0

DEHCHO				
Fort Providence	Deh Gáh Elem. & Sec.	1002.5	1002.5	1048.8
Fort Simpson	Thomas Simpson Secondary	n/a	n/a	1065.0
Fort Simpson	Bompas Elementary	971.3	1016.3	n/a
Jean Marie River	Louie Norwegian	760.0	1062.5	1062.5
Nahanni Butte	Charles Yohin	1037.5	1062.5	1093.3
Fort Liard	Echo Dene	1007.0	1032.0	1078.0
Wrigley	Chief Julian Yendo	831.3	1016.3	1062.5
Trout Lake	Charles Tetcho	755.0	1032.0	1063.0
Kakisa	Kakisa School	760.0	1000.0	1047.0

TLICHO				
Behchoko	Elizabeth Mackenzie Elem.	1018.0	1018.0	n/a
Behchoko	Chief Jimmy Bruneau	1018.0	1018.0	1064.0
Gameti	Jean Wetrade Gameti	1018.0	1018.0	1064.0
Wekweeti	Alexis Arrowmaker	1018.0	1018.0	1064.0
Whati	Mezi Community	1018.0	1018.0	1064.0

SAHTU				
Colville Lake	Colville Lake	894.0	1018.0	1064.0
Deline	?ehtseo Ayha	1018.0	1018.0	1064.0
Fort Good Hope	Chief T'Selehye	1064.0	1064.0	1095.0
Norman Wells	Mackenzie Mountain	1015.0	1015.0	1061.0
Tulita	Chief Albert Wright	1018.0	1018.0	1110.0

SOUTH SLAVE				
Fort Resolution	Deninu	938.0	1009.0	1055.0
Fort Smith	JB Tyrrell	1009.3	1009.3	n/a
Fort Smith	PW Kaeser	n/a	n/a	1055.5
Hay River	Harry Camsell Elementary	952.0	1009.0	n/a
Hay River	Princess Alexandra	952.0	1009.0	n/a
Hay River	Diamond Jenness	n/a	n/a	1055.1
Hay River	Chief Sunrise Education	1015.0	1015.0	1061.0
Lutsel K'e	Lutsel K'e Dene	1009.3	1009.3	1055.0

Yk #1				
Yellowknife	École J.H. Sisson	995.5	995.5	1040.8
	Mildred Hall	995.5	995.5	1040.8
	N.J. Macpherson	995.5	995.5	1040.8
	Range Lake North	995.5	995.5	1040.8
	William McDonald	995.5	995.5	1040.8
	Sir John Franklin High	995.5	995.5	1046.5
Ndilo	K'àlemi Dene	995.5	995.5	1040.8
Detah	Kaw Tay Whee	995.5	995.5	1040.8

YCS				
Yellowknife	Weledeh Catholic	1010.2	1010.2	1046.5
	École St. Joseph	1000.5	1000.5	1052.0
	St. Patrick High School	n/a	n/a	1049.4

CSFTN				
Yellowknife	École Allain St-Cyr	828.0	996.7	1073.0
Hay River	École Boreale	828.0	996.7	1073.0

Legislative Assembly Flags Lowered to Commemorate Vimy Ridge Day

YELLOWKNIFE) April 7, 2017 – From sunrise to sunset on Sunday, April 9, 2017, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories will join federal, provincial, and municipal institutions in lowering the flags outside of the legislature to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

In 2003, the Government of Canada declared April 9 to be “Vimy Ridge Day”. This day was created to honour and remember soldiers who fought and gave their lives during the First World War Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

“Soldiers gave their lives during the First World War so that Canadians could have a brighter future. Thanks to these brave people, we have a beautiful country that we can all be proud of. I am honoured for the Legislative Assembly of the NWT to take part in this historical observance,” said Honourable Speaker, Jackson Lafferty.

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Mise en berne des drapeaux de l'Assemblée législative pour la commémoration de la bataille de la crête de Vimy

Yellowknife, le 7 avril 2017 – Du lever au coucher du soleil, le dimanche 9 avril 2017, l'Assemblée législative des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) se joindra aux institutions fédérales, provinciales et municipales pour la mise en berne des drapeaux à l'extérieur de son édifice afin de souligner le 100^e anniversaire de la bataille de la crête de Vimy.

En 2003, le gouvernement du Canada a déclaré le 9 avril « Jour de la bataille de Vimy ». Cette reconnaissance a été instaurée pour honorer le souvenir des soldats qui ont combattu et donné leur vie à la bataille de la crête de Vimy pendant la Première Guerre mondiale, en 1917.

« Les soldats ont donné leur vie durant la Première Guerre mondiale pour que les Canadiens puissent profiter d'un meilleur avenir. Grâce à ces courageuses personnes, nous vivons dans un pays magnifique dont nous pouvons tous être fiers. Je suis honoré que l'Assemblée législative des TNO prenne part à cette commémoration historique », a déclaré le président de l'Assemblée, Jackson Lafferty.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, communiquez avec :

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Ledge Talks: Does NASA Want To Hear From Us? Turns Out The Answer Is “Yes”!

YELLOWKNIFE, NT) April 19, 2017 – The Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABOVE) is a NASA field campaign to study the environmental and societal effects of environmental change in Alaska and northwestern Canada. NASA scientists are working with US and Canadian partners to examine such issues as thawing permafrost, wildfire expansion, and changes to wildlife habitats across a region that spans 6.3 million square kilometers (2.4 million square miles). The multi-year effort will integrate satellite and airborne remote sensing with ground observations to better understand the ecological and social impacts of the rapidly changing climate. NASA welcomes the people of the Northwest Territories to participate through contributions of citizen science or traditional knowledge.

The Legislative Assembly Library is pleased to present two dynamic NASA scientists in a public forum in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly on April 20, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. It is the latest edition of *Ledge Talks: The Knowledge Series*.

Dr. Peter Griffith is the founding director of NASA’s Carbon Cycle and Ecosystems Office and is Chief Support Scientist for the Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABOVE). He also directs the team that supports the Carbon Cycle & Ecosystems Focus Area at the headquarters for NASA’s Carbon Monitoring System (<http://carbon.nasa.gov>), and the North American Carbon Program (<http://www.nacarbon.org>), a component of the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

Dr. Charles “Chip” Miller is the Deputy Science Team Lead for the Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment and the Principal Investigator (PI) for the Carbon in Arctic Reservoirs Vulnerability Experiment. He is the Deputy PI for the Orbiting Carbon Observatory and a member of the science teams for NASA’s Carbon Monitoring System and the Megacities Carbon Project. (<https://science.jpl.nasa.gov/projects/CARVE>).

Ledge Talks: The Knowledge Series is a forum for a wide variety of speakers to present current ideas, science, traditional knowledge, and issues relevant to the Northwest Territories and beyond. Ledge Talks will also showcase research done by many GNWT employees – often with collaborating partners – who are making substantial contributions to the world’s understanding of the North. Questions and discussion will follow the presentation. Media and the public are welcome. The event will be webcast via the Legislative Assembly website: www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.

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Assemblée du savoir : la NASA veut connaître notre avis!

Yellowknife, le 19 avril 2017 – L'expérience sur la vulnérabilité de la région boréale arctique (Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment, ou ABoVE) est menée par la NASA afin d'examiner l'effet des changements environnementaux sur la nature et la société en Alaska et dans le nord-ouest du Canada. En collaboration avec des partenaires canadiens et américains, les scientifiques de la NASA étudient sur le terrain des phénomènes comme la fonte du pergélisol, l'expansion des feux de forêt et la modification des habitats fauniques sur un territoire de 6,3 millions de kilomètres carrés. Ces recherches, qui s'échelonnent sur plusieurs années, combineront la télédétection aérienne et satellite à des observations au sol en vue de mieux comprendre les conséquences écologiques et sociales qu'entraînent les changements climatiques rapides. La NASA espère voir les habitants des Territoires du Nord-Ouest participer à ces efforts par des projets de recherche citoyenne ou le partage des connaissances traditionnelles.

À l'occasion de la prochaine conférence *Assemblée du savoir*, la Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée législative aura le plaisir d'offrir une tribune publique à deux scientifiques passionnés de la NASA. L'événement aura lieu dans le foyer principal de l'Assemblée législative le 20 avril 2017 à 19 h 30.

Peter Griffith, Ph. D., est directeur fondateur du bureau sur le cycle du carbone et les écosystèmes (Carbon Cycle and Ecosystems Office) de la NASA et chercheur de soutien principal pour le programme ABoVE. Il dirige également l'équipe de soutien du secteur d'intervention sur le cycle du carbone et les écosystèmes, secteur du système de surveillance du carbone au siège de la NASA (<http://carbon.nasa.gov>), ainsi que le programme nord-américain sur le carbone (<http://www.nacarbon.org>), qui relève du U.S. Global Change Research Program.

Charles « Chip » Miller, Ph. D., est chef adjoint de l'équipe scientifique du programme ABoVE et chercheur principal pour l'expérience de vulnérabilité du carbone dans les réservoirs de l'Arctique (Carbon in Arctic Reservoirs Vulnerability Experiment, ou CARVE). Il est aussi chercheur principal adjoint pour le projet d'observation du carbone en orbite et membre des équipes scientifiques du système de surveillance du carbone et du projet de surveillance des émissions de carbone des mégapoles de la NASA (<https://science.jpl.nasa.gov/projects/CARVE>).

L'*Assemblée du savoir* offre une tribune à une variété de conférenciers appelés à présenter des idées actuelles, un contenu scientifique, des connaissances traditionnelles et des enjeux pertinents pour les Territoires du Nord-Ouest et au-delà. L'*Assemblée du savoir* permet également de présenter les travaux de recherche réalisés — souvent en collaboration avec des partenaires — par les nombreux employés du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, dont la contribution est importante pour la compréhension du Nord. La conférence sera suivie d'une période de questions et de discussion. Les médias et le public sont les bienvenus. Cette séance sera aussi diffusée sur le site Web de l'Assemblée législative (www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/fr).

Pour plus d'information, veuillez communiquer avec :

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Youth Parliament 2017

YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, May 5, 2017 – The Legislative Assembly is pleased to announce that the 15th Youth Parliament will begin on Monday, May 8th. Nineteen high school students from across the north will take part in Youth Parliament, an educational outreach program hosted by the Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Jackson Lafferty. During the program, students will assume the role of their respected Member of the Legislative Assembly and will participate in three days of meetings and briefings in preparation for the Youth Parliament Model Session on Thursday, May 11th.

The program is aimed at educating Northern youth about consensus government, with an emphasis on the Assembly operations, its function and history, and the important role the institution holds in the NWT.

The participants, by constituency, are:

Deh Cho – Ms. Raynna Bonnetrouge	Frame Lake – Mr. Robert Paddock
Great Slave – Ms. Emma Willoughby	Hay River North – Ms. Victoria Tweedie-Pitre
Hay River South – Ms. Lisa Boutilier	Inuvik Boot Lake – Mr. Krish Sharma
Inuvik Twin Lakes – Ms. Myha Martin	Kam Lake – Ms. Anusha Sivakumar
Mackenzie Delta – Mr. Kennen Jack Andre-Blake	Monfwi – Ms. Rianna Camsell
Nahendeh – Mr. Angus James Capot-Blanc	Nunakput – Mr. Kyran Alikamik
Range Lake – Ms. Alexis McLeod	Sahtu – Ms. Allana Zettler
Thebacha – Ms. Macayla Flett-DaCorte	Yellowknife Centre – Mr. Ivan Ceria
Yellowknife North – Mr. Alvin Kollannoor	Yellowknife South – Mr. Aidan Allan

The Youth Parliament 2017 Model Session is taking place in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly building on Thursday, May 11, at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to view the Youth Parliament proceedings from the Public Gallery. Media are encouraged to arrange interviews with the students prior to the sitting day.

For more information, please contact:

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Parlement jeunesse 2017

Yellowknife, le 5 mai 2017 – L'Assemblée législative est heureuse d'annoncer que l'ouverture du 15^e Parlement jeunesse aura lieu le lundi 8 mai 2017. Dix-neuf jeunes de partout aux TNO y participeront à ce programme éducatif de sensibilisation organisé par le président de l'Assemblée législative, Jackson Lafferty. Au cours de cette activité, les élèves se mettront dans la peau de leur député respectif à l'Assemblée législative et participeront à trois jours de réunions et de séances d'information en préparation à la simulation de séance qui aura lieu le jeudi 11 mai.

Le programme a pour mission de sensibiliser les jeunes du Nord au gouvernement de consensus, en mettant l'accent sur les activités de l'Assemblée législative, son fonctionnement et son histoire ainsi que sur le rôle central que joue cette institution aux TNO.

Liste des participants et des circonscriptions qu'ils représentent :

Deh Cho – Mme Raynna Bonnetrouge	Frame Lake – M. Robert Paddock
Great Slave – Mme Emma Willoughby	Hay River Nord – Mme Victoria Tweedie-Pitre
Hay River Sud – Mme Lisa Boutilier	Inuvik Boot Lake – M. Krish Sharma
Inuvik Twin Lakes – Mme Myha Martin	Kam Lake – Mme Anusha Sivakumar
Delta du Mackenzie – M. Kennen Jack Andre-Blake	Monfwi – Mme Rianna Camsell
Nahendeh – M. Angus James Capot-Blanc	Nunakput – M. Kyran Alikamik
Range Lake – Mme Alexis McLeod	Sahtu – Mme Allana Zettler
Thebacha – Mme Macayla Flett-DaCorte	Yellowknife Centre – M. Ivan Ceria
Yellowknife Nord – M. Alvin Kollanoor	Yellowknife Sud – M. Aidan Allan

La simulation de session du Parlement jeunesse 2017 aura lieu à la Chambre de l'édifice de l'Assemblée législative le jeudi 11 mai, à 13 h 30. Le public est invité à observer les délibérations du Parlement jeunesse de la tribune du public. On encourage les représentants des médias à organiser des interviews avec les élèves avant la session.

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Yellowknife Regular Members Call On Cabinet To Take Immediate Action To Support The Northern Frontier Visitor Centre

YELLOWKNIFE) May 8, 2017 – Following a decision made by the Northern Frontier Visitors Association Board to close the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre by May 15, Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly representing Yellowknife constituencies are calling on the government to take immediate action to support the continued operation of this facility.

“The government has been a constant champion for our tourism industry and now immediate action is required to ensure continuity of services for the upcoming tourism season,” said Kevin O’Reilly, MLA for Frame Lake. “The government owns and operates most of the NWT’s visitor centers and this need for support is no different from what is being provided elsewhere in the territories.”

The Visitors Centre is owned and operated by the Northern Frontier Visitors Association (NFVA), a non-government organization that provides tourism services 360 days a year. The Centre is a popular attraction for tourists. There has been a 400% increase in visitors over the last 10 years, with more than 50,000 visitors through its doors in 2016. The Centre promotes not only Yellowknife but the entire NWT and has created connections across the NWT for merchandise and tourism operators.

“It is inconceivable that Yellowknife would not have a visitors information centre, nor can we ignore the needs of a volunteer organization that has done so much to support our economy,” said Julie Green, MLA for Yellowknife Centre.

Yellowknife Regular Members are proposing that the GNWT take the following actions:

- Work with the City of Yellowknife to secure a temporary location for the Visitors Centre;
- Cover costs of relocation and adequately fund NFVA’s operation of the Centre; and
- Provide funds for the demolition of the existing building and remediation of the site.

While there’s a need for a permanent location for the Visitor Centre, Yellowknife MLAs are focused the immediate needs of the NFVA. “The discussion on a new Yellowknife visitor centre will be part of the government’s strategic planning process,” said Cory Vanthuyne, MLA for Yellowknife North. “While we are supportive of a new centre the decision must be made with the full support of our colleagues, taking into account the strategic infrastructure priorities of the 18th Assembly,” added Kieron Testart, MLA for Kam Lake.

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Des députés de Yellowknife demandent au Conseil exécutif d'agir immédiatement en faveur du Centre de

Yellowknife, le 8 mai 2017 – Devant la décision prise par le conseil d'administration de la Northern Frontier Visitors Association de fermer le Centre des visiteurs Northern Frontier d'ici le 15 mai, des députés représentant Yellowknife à l'Assemblée législative demandent au gouvernement de prendre des mesures immédiates pour que cet établissement demeure en activité.

« À l'aube de notre prochaine saison touristique, le gouvernement doit concrétiser son engagement continu dans la promotion de notre industrie touristique en agissant immédiatement pour assurer la continuité des services du Centre », plaide Kevin O'Reilly, député de Frame Lake. « Le gouvernement possède et exploite la majorité des autres centres des visiteurs des TNO; le Centre des visiteurs Northern Frontier mérite tout simplement un soutien équivalent. »

Le Centre des visiteurs Northern Frontier appartient à la Northern Frontier Visitors Association (NFVA), une organisation non gouvernementale qui en assure l'exploitation et qui offre des services de tourisme 360 jours par année. Le Centre est une attraction très fréquentée par les touristes. L'achalandage y a augmenté de 400 % depuis 10 ans, et plus de 50 000 visiteurs s'y sont présentés en 2016. Le Centre, qui fait la promotion de Yellowknife et de l'ensemble des TNO, a aussi créé un réseau de contacts à l'échelle ténosé pour la marchandise et les exploitants du domaine touristique.

« Il est inconcevable que Yellowknife n'ait pas de centre d'information touristique. Nous ne pouvons pas non plus ignorer les besoins d'une organisation sans but lucratif qui a tant fait pour soutenir notre économie », a affirmé Julie Green, députée de Yellowknife Centre.

Les simples députés de Yellowknife proposent au gouvernement de prendre les mesures suivantes :

- Travailler avec la Ville de Yellowknife afin de trouver un emplacement temporaire pour le Centre des visiteurs;
- Assumer les coûts de la relocalisation du Centre et financer adéquatement son exploitation par la NFVA;
- Financer la démolition du bâtiment actuel et la restauration du site.

Bien qu'on ait besoin d'un lieu permanent pour le Centre, les représentants de Yellowknife et les députés sont présentement occupés à remplir les besoins immédiats de la NFVA. « La discussion sur un nouveau centre des visiteurs pour Yellowknife fera partie du processus de planification stratégique du gouvernement », a affirmé Cory Vanthuyne, député de Yellowknife North. « Même si nous soutenons l'idée d'un nouveau centre, la décision doit être prise avec l'appui de l'ensemble de nos collègues en tenant compte des priorités stratégiques établies pour l'infrastructure par la 18^e Assemblée », a ajouté Kieron Testart, député de Kam Lake.

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2017 Recipients of the Order of the Northwest Territories Announced

(YELLOWKNIFE) Tuesday, May 23, 2017 – Paul Delorey, Chair of the Northwest Territories’ Honours Advisory Council, is pleased to announce the 2017 recipients of the Order of the Northwest Territories as:

- Mr. Paul Andrew of Yellowknife
- Mr. Fred Carmichael of Inuvik
- Mr. Russell King of Hay River
- Ms. Lynda Koe of Yellowknife
- Mr. Jeff Phillip of Yellowknife
- Mr. Tom Zubko of Inuvik

The Order of the Northwest Territories, established in 2013 by the *Territorial Emblems and Honours Act*, recognizes individuals who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of the NWT or elsewhere. It is the highest honour awarded to NWT residents. A member of the Order can wear the insignia of the Order as a decoration and use the initials “O.N.W.T.” after his or her name.

“These six recipients deserve to be granted this honour,” said Paul Delorey, Chair. “They are passionate northerners who greatly inspire residents of the NWT to persevere, share our knowledge and wisdom and, give back to our people and communities.”

The induction ceremony is being held on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 11:30 am in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Gerald W. Kisoun, will lead the ceremony in his role as Chancellor of the Order.

The ceremony is open to the public and the media are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact:

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Yellowknife, le mardi 23 mai 2017 – Paul Delorey, président du Conseil consultatif des distinctions des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, est heureux d’annoncer les récipiendaires 2017 de l’Ordre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest :

- M. Paul Andrew de Yellowknife
- M. Fred Carmichael d’Inuvik
- M. Russell King de Hay River
- Mme Lynda Koe de Yellowknife
- M. Jeff Phillip de Yellowknife
- M. Tom Zubko d’Inuvik

L’Ordre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, fondé en 2013 par la *Loi sur les emblèmes et les distinctions territoriaux*, reconnaît les personnes qui se sont le plus distinguées et qui ont excellé dans un domaine au profit des gens des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) ou d’ailleurs. Il s’agit de la plus haute distinction honorifique décernée aux Ténos. Un membre de l’Ordre peut porter l’insigne de l’Ordre comme décoration et utiliser les initiales O.T.N.-O après son nom.

« Ces six récipiendaires méritent que nous leur rendions hommage, a déclaré le président Paul Delorey. Il s’agit de Ténos passionnés qui inspirent les résidents des TNO à persévérer, à partager leurs connaissances et leur sagesse ainsi qu’à rendre service aux gens et aux collectivités. »

La cérémonie d’intrônisation se tiendra le mardi 30 mai 2017 à 11 h 30 dans la Chambre de l’Assemblée législative. Le commissaire adjoint des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, M. Gerald W. Kisoun, présidera les investitures en sa qualité de chancelier de l’Ordre.

Le public et les médias sont invités à assister à la cérémonie.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, communiquez avec :

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Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on Progress Review of GNWT Mandate

(YELLOWKNIFE) June 1, 2017 – The Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, chaired by Mr. Tom Beaulieu, presented today their [Report on the Progress Review of the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019](#).

The Report considered general progress on the key themes of the mandate: Economy, Environment and Climate Change; Education, Training and Youth Development; Cost of Living; Community Wellness and Safety; and Governance. Under each theme progress on individual mandate items were rated Good, Acceptable, Poor, and Fail. The Standing Committee found there to be 21 ‘Good’ grades, 67 ‘Acceptable’, 49 ‘Poor’, and 3 ‘Fails’.

“No government’s performance is perfect and we are no exception. Our review of progress in delivering on our mandate is an opportunity to learn from our mistakes as well as our successes. This review is also the first, evidence-based step in the Mid-Term Review process our Assembly adopted in its initial year of work. It is significant that the 18th Assembly is the first in the NWT’s history to provide such a detailed public accounting of its goals and progress,” said Mr. Tom Beaulieu, Chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning.

One of the 11 mandates of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning is to consider issues related to public engagement and transparency efforts by standing and special committees.

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Yellowknife, le 1^{er} juin 2017 – Le Comité permanent des priorités et de la planification de l'Assemblée législative, présidé par M. Tom Beaulieu, présentait aujourd'hui son rapport sur l'examen des progrès des engagements du Mandat du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, 2016 à 2019.

Le rapport fait état de l'avancement global réalisé dans les catégories principales suivantes du mandat : économie, environnement et changements climatiques; éducation, formation et développement des jeunes; coût de la vie; sécurité et mieux-être communautaires; et gouvernance. On y évalue également l'état de réalisation de chacun des engagements de ces catégories selon le barème suivant : « Bon », « Acceptable », « Faible » et « Échoué ». Voici les résultats obtenus : 21 « Bons », 67 « Acceptables », 49 « Faibles » et 3 « Échoués ».

« Le rendement d'aucun gouvernement n'est parfait, et nous n'y faisons pas exception. L'examen des progrès de la réalisation de notre mandat est l'occasion d'apprendre de nos erreurs et de nos réussites. Il s'agit d'ailleurs de la première étape fondée sur des informations factuelles du processus d'examen à mi-mandat adopté par l'Assemblée législative dans sa première année de travail. Il est important de noter que la 18^e Assemblée législative est la première de l'histoire des TNO à présenter un compte rendu si détaillé de ses buts et de ses progrès », a déclaré M. Tom Beaulieu, président du Comité permanent des priorités et de la planification.

Le mandat du Comité permanent des priorités et de la planification est d'examiner les enjeux liés aux efforts de consultation du public et de transparence des comités permanents et spéciaux.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIORITIES AND PLANNING
REPORT ON THE PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE
MANDATE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019**

Backgrounder

What is the purpose of the review?

The purpose of this review is to assess the progress of government's work to deliver on the mandate and focus on the ongoing work for the next two years. This review is one of the first pieces of the mid-term review directed by a motion of the Assembly last year. The Government of the Northwest Territories will also be tabling their own self-assessment.

What was the process for this review?

Each of the four Standing Committees reviewed each mandate item for which it is responsible in its oversight of the government's work. Each committee revisited its correspondence with Ministers and briefing materials, referred to the government's "Status of Mandate Commitments" website, and reviewed the government's *Annual Report on Implementation of the Mandate, 2016 – 17*, tabled in the House on March 6, 2017. Members provided observations on the effectiveness of work done, from their perspectives. ~~Each committee rated progress to date and commented on each~~ appropriate mandate item. These assessments were further discussed by the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning.

How was progress on mandate priorities evaluated?

The Committee has rated progress on individual mandate items as Good, Acceptable, Poor, or Fail. The list of Good and Acceptable results is heartening, but there is also a long list of priorities on which progress is poor or nonexistent. Committee did not expect completion of all these goals, some of which will continue for decades. The review process only evaluated progress.

Why review the mandate?

The Priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly were tabled on Thursday, December 17, 2015 during the First Session. Based on these priorities, all 19 Members agreed on defined actions to advance the priorities they set. The mandate is the 18th Assembly's promise of performance to residents of the NWT. The Legislative Assembly directed that a mid-term review of the mandate be conducted in the Fall of 2017.

**RAPPORT DU COMITÉ PERMANENT DES PRIORITÉS ET DE LA PLANIFICATION
SUR L'EXAMEN DES PROGRÈS DES ENGAGEMENTS DU
MANDAT DU GOUVERNEMENT DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST, 2016-2019**

Document d'information

Quel est le but de cet examen?

Cet examen vise à évaluer le progrès du gouvernement dans la réalisation de son mandat et à établir le travail à faire au cours des deux prochaines années. Il s'agit de la première étape du processus d'examen à mi-mandat adopté l'année dernière à la suite d'une motion de l'Assemblée législative.

Quel processus a-t-on suivi pour réaliser cet examen?

Les quatre comités permanents ont examiné tous les engagements du mandat qu'il leur incombe de surveiller. Pour ce faire, ils ont revu leur correspondance avec les ministres ainsi que les notes d'information et ils ont consulté le site Web gouvernemental « Progrès des engagements pris dans le mandat » ainsi qu'examiné le *Rapport annuel 2016-2017 sur la mise en œuvre du mandat* du gouvernement, déposé le 6 mars 2017. Les membres ont formulé des commentaires, selon leur perspective, sur l'efficacité des travaux réalisés. Les comités ont également évalué le progrès accompli jusqu'à maintenant concernant les engagements du gouvernement qu'ils devaient surveiller et ont formulé des commentaires sur le sujet. Puis, le Comité permanent des priorités et de la planification a examiné plus en profondeur ces évaluations.

Comment a-t-on évalué le progrès des engagements du mandat?

Le Comité a évalué le progrès réalisé selon le barème suivant : « Bon », « Acceptable », « Faible » et « Échoué ». Le nombre d'engagements évalués dont le progrès est bon ou acceptable est encourageant, mais le nombre d'engagements dont le progrès est faible ou inexistant demeure quand même élevé. Le Comité permanent ne s'attendait pas à ce que tous les objectifs soient déjà réalisés, car certains d'entre eux prendront des décennies à l'être. Le processus d'examen n'a évalué que les progrès accomplis.

Pourquoi examiner le mandat?

Les priorités de la 18^e Assemblée législative ont été déposées durant la première session, le jeudi 17 décembre 2015. Les 19 députés se sont mis d'accord pour définir des mesures afin de s'assurer que les priorités aillent de l'avant. Le mandat représente la promesse de rendement qu'a faite la 18^e Assemblée législative aux Téoïis. L'Assemblée législative a ordonné qu'un examen à mi-parcours du mandat ait lieu à l'automne 2017.

Tu Nedhe – Wiilideh MLA Congratulates Youth Attending Games

(Yellowknife) July 20, 2017 – Mr. Tom Beaulieu, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Tu Nedhe – Wiilideh, extends his congratulations to the Tu Nedhe – Wiilideh athletes that have been selected for both the North American Indigenous Games and the Canada Summer Games.

“These games are a great opportunity for the youth of my riding to experience the country’s largest multi-sport events. The hard work and determination that each of these youth has shown has been recognized and I would like to extend my congratulations to each of them,” said Mr. Beaulieu.

Youth from the Tu Nedhe – Wiilideh riding are:

North American Indigenous Games:

Johnny Bailey, Fort Resolution
Jacob Boucher, Fort Resolution
Bayleigh Chaplin, Fort Resolution
Tamara Lafferty, Fort Resolution
Tanis Lafferty, Fort Resolution
Ethan McKay, Fort Resolution
Kayleigh McKay, Fort Resolution
Dion Norn, Fort Resolution
Issac Simon, Fort Resolution
Jude Simon, Fort Resolution
Greg Villeneuve, Fort Resolution
Devin Catholique, Lutsel k’e
Tanner Catholique, Lutsel k’e
Ethan Catholique-Rombough, Lutsel k’e
Nathan Lockhart, Lutsel k’e
Valadie Lockhart, Lutsel k’e
Zhanayii Drygeese, Yellowknife
Manager - Matt Brady, Fort Resolution
Mission Staff - Mary Catholique, Lutsel k’e

Canada Summer Games:

Hureliel Deranger, Lutselke – Soccer program
Ethan McKay, Fort Resolution – Soccer program
Darian Erasmus, Yellowknife – Swimming program
Darryl Balsillie, Fort Resolution – Soccer program
Isaac Simon, Fort Resolution – Soccer program

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18th Assembly Fall Caucus Retreat

(YELLOWKNIFE, NT) August 25, 2017 - Caucus of the 18th Legislative Assembly met this week for a three-day retreat in the Inuvik region. MLAs and staff members travelled to Inuvik on Wednesday, August 23 and proceeded by boat to Reindeer Station, where they took part in meetings to review potential changes to the *Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019*.

"It is important for us to come together as a Caucus to discuss important items that affect all northerners. It's great to get out and connect to the land, Reindeer Station is a beautiful part of our territory and we feel honoured to have been able to visit this historical site," says Kevin O'Reilly, Deputy Caucus Chair.

The Second Session of the 18th Legislative Assembly reconvenes on Tuesday, September 19. This year is unique, with the second session proroguing on October 4th and the third session opening on October 17th. This will give Members the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the mid-term review.

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Réunion d'automne du caucus de la 18^e Assemblée législative

Yellowknife, le 25 août 2017 – Le groupe parlementaire de la 18^e Assemblée législative s'est réuni cette semaine à l'occasion de trois journées de réflexion dans la région d'Inuvik. Les députés et des membres de leur personnel se sont rendus à Inuvik, le mercredi 23 août, d'où ils ont pris un bateau pour Reindeer Station; ils ont pu prendre part à des rencontres pour passer en revue les changements potentiels du mandat 2016-2019 du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

« Il est important que nous nous réunissions pour discuter des sujets importants qui touchent tous les Ténos. C'est une occasion formidable de passer du temps dans la nature. Reindeer Station est un lieu magnifique de notre territoire et c'est un honneur de visiter ce lieu historique, » a déclaré Kevin O'Reilly, vice-président du caucus.

La deuxième session de la 18^e Assemblée législative reprend le mardi 19 septembre. Cette année est unique, car la deuxième session sera suspendue le 4 octobre, et la troisième session débutera le 17 octobre. Les députés auront ainsi le temps de discuter des résultats du processus d'examen à mi-mandat.

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18th Legislative Assembly Mid-Term Review Process

(YELLOWKNIFE, NT) September 27, 2017 - On October 5, 2017 at 9:00 am the Mid-term Review Committee of the 18th Legislative Assembly will gather in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly to commence the Mid-term Review of the Executive Council (Cabinet).

Early in the life of the 18th Assembly, Members committed to hold a public mid-term review in an effort to demonstrate the commitment of the Assembly to greater transparency and accountability. The matter was referred to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures for further consideration and to recommend a process for the mid-term review.

The Mid-Term Review Committee will be chaired by the Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Jackson Lafferty. The Premier will make a statement of up to ten minutes in length on his leadership and performance and the collective leadership and performance of Cabinet. Each Minister will then make a statement of up to five minutes on his or her leadership and performance. Following these statements, each Member will be permitted to ask two questions to each Minister and the Premier.

Upon conclusion of questions to the Premier and Cabinet, Members will be called upon to cast secret ballots from the floor of the Chamber indicating whether the Members do or do not have confidence in the performance and leadership of Cabinet as a whole and of each Member of the Executive Council individually. The results of the balloting will be announced publicly prior to adjournment of the Mid-term Review Committee.

The proceedings of the Mid-term Review Committee will be televised live across the NWT on local community channels and direct-to-home satellite on the Bell (channel 513) and Shaw Direct (289/489) networks. It will also be broadcast via Facebook Live on the Legislative Assembly [Facebook page](#) and on CKLB Radio on Thursday evening from 7:30 – 9:30.

The public and media are invited to observe the proceedings of the 18th Assembly's Mid-term Review Committee from the public gallery of the Legislative Assembly.

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Yellowknife, TNO, le 27 septembre 2017 – Les membres du Comité d’examen à mi-mandat de la 18^e Assemblée législative se réuniront le 5 octobre 2017 à 9 h dans la Chambre de l’Assemblée législative pour commencer l’examen à mi-mandat du Conseil exécutif.

Aux débuts de la 18^e Assemblée, les députés ont promis d’effectuer un examen public à mi-mandat en vue de prouver l’engagement de l’Assemblée envers une transparence et une responsabilisation accrues. La question a été soumise au Comité permanent des règles et des procédures aux fins d’examen plus poussé et pour émettre des recommandations à ce sujet.

Le Comité d’examen à mi-mandat sera présidé par le président de l’Assemblée législative, Jackson Lafferty. Le premier ministre s’exprimera pendant au plus dix minutes sur son leadership et l’exécution de ses fonctions, ainsi que sur le leadership et l’exécution des fonctions du Conseil exécutif. Tous les ministres s’exprimeront ensuite pendant au plus cinq minutes sur leur leadership et l’exécution de leurs fonctions. À l’issue de ces déclarations, tous les députés pourront poser deux questions à chaque ministre et au premier ministre.

Au terme de la séance de questions au premier ministre et au Conseil exécutif, les députés seront appelés à voter secrètement à la Chambre pour indiquer leur degré de confiance dans l’exécution des fonctions et le leadership du Conseil exécutif dans son ensemble, et de chacun de ses membres. Les résultats du vote seront annoncés publiquement avant l’ajournement de la réunion du Comité d’examen à mi-mandat.

Les délibérations du Comité d’examen à mi-mandat seront diffusées en direct à la télévision dans l’ensemble des Territoires du Nord-Ouest sur les chaînes communautaires et par satellite sur les chaînes 513 de Bell et 289 et 489 de Shaw Direct. Elles seront également diffusées en direct sur la [page Facebook](#) de l’Assemblée législative et sur les ondes de CKLB jeudi soir, de 19 h 30 à 21 h 30.

On invite les médias et les résidents à assister aux délibérations du Comité d’examen à mi-mandat de la 18^e Assemblée depuis la tribune du public de l’Assemblée législative.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

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MLA Salaries and Benefits

(YELLOWKNIFE, NT) October 3, 2017 - On March 3, 2016 the Legislative Assembly passed Bill 1: *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. The Bill froze MLA salaries and benefits at 2015 levels for two years. Normally, MLA salaries are adjusted each year on April 1 to reflect changes in the consumer price index (CPI), or inflation. Bill 1 eliminated the CPI increase that otherwise would have been payable on April 1, 2016 and 2017.

“This was done because of the fiscal and economic situation that the 18th Legislative Assembly faced when it came to office,” noted Speaker Jackson Lafferty, who also serves as Chair of the Assembly’s Board of Management – the body that oversees MLA pay and allowances. “It was the very first piece of legislation that this Assembly passed.”

At its meeting of Wednesday, September 27, 2017, the Board was briefed on Bill 1 and advised that unless new legislation was put in place, CPI increases would be applied to MLA salaries and allowances effective April 1, 2018. The Board gave no instructions and made no decisions on this matter.

“The briefing was accepted as information,” noted Lafferty. “The Board agreed to revisit the issue in the new year once the 2018/19 budget was made public.” No discussions have been held by Members of the Legislative Assembly on this matter. The Assembly is currently in the process of establishing an Independent Commission to review its salaries and allowances, something it is required by legislation to do every four years. The recommendations of these Commissions are normally only applied to the Members of the next Legislative Assembly. “This work is unrelated to Bill 1 or any decision that may affect MLA salaries on April 1 of next year,” said Lafferty.

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Yellowknife, le 3 octobre 2017 – Le 3 mars 2016, l'Assemblée législative a adopté le projet de loi n° 1, *Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif*. Ce projet de loi gelait les salaires et les avantages sociaux des députés aux niveaux de 2015 pendant deux ans. Les salaires des députés sont habituellement ajustés le 1^{er} avril de chaque année de façon à tenir compte de la modification de l'indice des prix à la consommation (IPC) ou de l'inflation. Le projet de loi n° 1 supprimait l'augmentation de l'IPC qui aurait été payable le 1^{er} avril 2016 et 2017.

« Cette décision a été prise en raison du contexte budgétaire et économique dans lequel la 18^e Assemblée législative est entrée en fonction, explique Jackson Lafferty, président de l'Assemblée et du Bureau de régie de l'Assemblée législative (l'organisme chargé de la supervision du salaire et des indemnités des députés). C'est la toute première mesure législative à avoir été adoptée par cette Assemblée. »

Lors de sa réunion du mercredi 27 septembre 2017, le Bureau a été informé au sujet du projet de loi n° 1 et avisé du fait que, à moins de l'adoption d'une nouvelle loi, les augmentations de l'IPC seraient appliquées aux salaires et aux indemnités des députés à compter du 1^{er} avril 2018. Le Bureau n'a donné aucune instruction et n'a pris aucune décision à ce sujet.

« On a pris note de l'information qui nous a été transmise, indique M. Lafferty. Le Bureau a accepté de réexaminer la question au cours du prochain exercice, après que le budget 2018-2019 aura été rendu public. » Ce point n'a fait l'objet d'aucune discussion chez les députés de l'Assemblée législative. Cette dernière constitue actuellement une commission indépendante qui sera chargée d'examiner les salaires et les indemnités de ses députés. Cette évaluation doit être effectuée tous les quatre ans aux termes de la loi. Les recommandations de cette commission ne visent normalement que les députés de l'Assemblée législative suivante. « Ces travaux n'ont rien à voir avec le projet de loi n° 1 ni avec aucune décision qui pourrait toucher les salaires des députés le 1^{er} avril prochain », ajoute le président de l'Assemblée législative.

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Fred Carmichael Order of the Northwest Territories Induction Ceremony

(YELLOWKNIFE) Thursday, October 12, 2017 – Paul Delorey, Chair of the Northwest Territories' Honours Advisory Council, is pleased to announce the induction ceremony for Fred Carmichael of Inuvik. Mr. Carmichael was honoured with this award in March 2017, but was unable to attend the initial induction ceremony.

Mr. Carmichael was the first Aboriginal person from Canada's Arctic region to obtain a commercial pilot's license. His 60 year career in aviation set him apart as a valuable mentor, teacher and consultant and is recognized throughout the north as a leader and entrepreneur. He is a founding member of the Inuvik Aviation Council, lifetime member of the Northern Air Transport Association and served eight years as the Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and CEO of the Gwich'in Development Corporation. Mr. Carmichael is a Member of the Order of Canada, a recipient of the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals and holds an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Carmichael has generously volunteered time, equipment and expertise to search for missing people and provide air services in desperate situations.

The Order of the Northwest Territories, established in 2013 by the *Territorial Emblems and Honours Act*, recognizes individuals who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of the NWT or elsewhere. It is the highest honour awarded to NWT residents. A member of the Order can wear the insignia of the Order as a decoration and use the initials "O.N.W.T." after his or her name.

The Induction ceremony is being held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 11:30 am in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Margaret Thom, will lead the ceremony in her role as Chancellor of the Order.

The ceremony is open to the public and the media are welcome to attend.

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Cérémonie d'intronisation de Fred Carmichael à l'Ordre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Yellowknife, le jeudi 12 octobre 2017 – Paul Delorey, président du Conseil consultatif des distinctions des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, est heureux d'annoncer la tenue d'une cérémonie d'intronisation pour Fred Carmichael d'Inuvik. M. Carmichael a reçu sa distinction en mars 2017, mais n'avait pu alors assister à la cérémonie d'intronisation.

M. Carmichael a été le premier Autochtone de la région de l'Arctique canadien à obtenir une licence de pilote professionnel. Sa carrière de 60 ans dans le domaine de l'aviation le distingue comme mentor, enseignant et consultant de qualité, en plus du fait qu'il soit reconnu comme chef de file et entrepreneur, partout dans le Nord. Ce membre fondateur de l'Inuvik Aviation Council et membre à vie de la Northern Air Transport Association a servi pendant huit ans comme grand chef du Conseil tribal des Gwich'in et président-directeur général de la Société de développement gwich'in. Il est officier de l'Ordre du Canada, récipiendaire des médailles du jubilé d'or et de diamant de la reine ainsi que titulaire d'un doctorat honorifique en droit de l'Université de la Saskatchewan. Il a généreusement offert son temps, son expertise et de l'équipement à la recherche de personnes disparues et à la réalisation de missions aériennes dans des situations désespérées.

L'Ordre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, fondé en 2013 par la *Loi sur les emblèmes et les distinctions territoriaux*, honore les personnes qui se sont le plus distinguées et ont excellé dans un domaine au profit des résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) ou d'ailleurs. Il s'agit de la plus haute distinction honorifique décernée aux Ténos. Un membre de l'Ordre peut porter l'insigne de l'Ordre comme décoration et utiliser les initiales « O.T.N.-O » après son nom.

La cérémonie d'intronisation se tiendra le mardi 17 octobre 2017 à 11 h 30 dans la Chambre de l'Assemblée législative. La commissaire des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, l'honorable Margaret Thom, présidera la cérémonie en sa qualité de chancelière de l'Ordre.

Le public et les médias sont invités à assister à la cérémonie.

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Members Appointed to Independent Commission to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits

(YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, October 20, 2017 – The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, on recommendation of the Board of Management, appointed three members to the Independent Commission to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits.

Mr. Norman Yakeleya of Tulita was appointed Chair of the Commission; Mr. John Hazenberg and Ms. Donna Allen of Yellowknife have been appointed as Commissioners. "I have full confidence in each of the individuals who have been appointed to the Commission and I look forward to the recommendations they put forward," said Speaker Lafferty.

The review, to be undertaken within two years of a general election, of the indemnities, allowances, expenses, and benefits provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly is a statutory requirement of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. The Commission, established under the *Act*, will review and assess Members' various benefits to determine the adequacy and appropriateness of the amounts provided and will review and assess the reporting requirements and procedures to determine an acceptable level of public accountability.

The last comprehensive report on Members' compensation and benefits was tabled in May 2014 by the previous Commission members. The recommendations from this report resulted in a number of changes to legislation, regulations, and Board of Management policies.

Within ten months of the establishment of the Commission, a report will be delivered to the Speaker that may set out recommendations for changes to the indemnities, reimbursements, and all other benefits to which Members are entitled. These recommendations must be debated and formally adopted by the Legislative Assembly before taking effect.

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Nomination de trois membres à la commission indépendante chargée d'examiner la rémunération et les avantages ...

Yellowknife, le 20 octobre 2017 – M. Jackson Lafferty, président de l'Assemblée législative, a nommé, sur recommandation du Bureau de régie, trois membres à la commission indépendante chargée d'examiner la rémunération et les avantages sociaux des députés.

M. Norman Yakeleya, de Tulita, a ainsi été nommé président de la commission, tandis que M. John Hazenberg et M^{me} Donna Allen, de Yellowknife, ont été nommés commissaires. « Chacune de ces personnes a ma pleine confiance, et il me tarde déjà de lire les recommandations qu'elles formuleront », a exprimé M. Lafferty.

Cet examen, qui doit obligatoirement être entrepris deux ans après une élection générale selon la *Loi sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif*, portera notamment sur les indemnités, allocations, dépenses et autres avantages dont profitent les députés de l'Assemblée législative. La commission, constituée en vertu de la Loi, aura pour mandat d'examiner et d'évaluer, d'une part, la rémunération et les avantages sociaux des députés pour déterminer si les sommes allouées sont justes et appropriées et, d'autre part, les procédures et exigences de déclaration afin d'établir si elles répondent suffisamment aux critères de transparence et de responsabilité publique.

Le dernier rapport sur la rémunération et les avantages sociaux des députés, déposé en mai 2014 par la commission précédente, avait mené par ses recommandations à plusieurs modifications à la loi, aux règlements et aux politiques du Bureau de régie.

La commission aura dix mois suivant sa création pour soumettre au président de l'Assemblée un rapport pouvant recommander des changements aux indemnités, aux remboursements et aux autres avantages auxquels les députés ont droit. Ces recommandations devront ensuite être débattues et entérinées par l'Assemblée législative pour prendre effet.

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Appointments to Commission Offices

(YELLOWKNIFE) Friday, October 20, 2017 – The Legislative Assembly has recommended the appointment of two Statutory Office Commissioners.

Mr. David Phillip Jones has been reappointed as Conflict of Interest Commissioner, this reappointment will come into effect on December 1, 2017.

Ms. Elizabeth Joy Noonan has been appointed as the Equal Pay Commissioner. Ms. Noonan is currently a mediator and arbitrator in Ontario and has significant expertise in the field of Equal Pay. Ms. Noonan was legal counsel in an equal pay case involving Bell Canada and was team co-lead for the complaint filed against the Government of the Northwest Territories by the Union of Northwest Workers and the Public Service Alliance of Canada that ultimately led to the establishment of the position of Equal Pay Commissioner.

“These individuals are very well suited to these roles and we look forward to working with both of them,” said Honourable Speaker Jackson Lafferty.

Both appointments are for a term of four years.

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Yellowknife, le 20 octobre 2017 – L'Assemblée législative recommande la nomination de deux titulaires d'une charge créée par une loi.

Le mandat de M. David Phillip Jones à titre de commissaire aux conflits d'intérêts a été renouvelé et ce nouveau mandat entre en vigueur le 1^{er} décembre 2017.

Mme Elizabeth Joy Noonan a été nommée commissaire à l'équité salariale. Elle est actuellement une médiatrice-arbitre en Ontario et possède une grande expertise dans le domaine de l'équité salariale. Elle a joué le rôle de conseillère juridique dans une affaire d'équité salariale impliquant Bell Canada et a conjointement dirigé l'équipe travaillant sur la plainte déposée contre le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest par le Syndicat des travailleurs et travailleuses du Nord et l'Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada qui a mené à la création du poste de commissaire à l'équité salariale.

« Ces personnes sont tout à fait capables d'exercer ces fonctions et nous nous réjouissons à l'idée de travailler avec elles », a déclaré le président Jackson Lafferty.

Les commissaires sont nommés pour quatre ans.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

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Social Development Tour of Addictions Treatment Facilities

(YELLOWKNIFE) Wednesday, November 29, 2017 – Members of the Standing Committee on Social Development, chaired by Mr. Shane Thompson, will join the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Glen Abernethy, on a study tour of addictions facilities in Nanaimo, British Columbia, and Calgary and St. Albert, Alberta from December 4-8, 2017.

There are clear links between addictions and mental health in the NWT, with alcohol and drugs often involved in residents' mental health hospitalizations. Harms caused by alcohol consumption and growing community concerns regarding fentanyl use also weigh on Northerners' minds. This tour will give Members a better understanding of the experience of NWT residents in treatment and recovery.

"Improving addictions and mental health services for our residents is a key Committee priority, and this tour will allow us to gather first-hand information from those working with Northerners on the front line," says Mr. Thompson. "We're particularly interested in these facilities' treatment options for Northerners, including unique programming for Indigenous residents, as well as after-care and post-treatment supports and best practices. We look forward to applying what we learn in our work with the Minister on a territorial *Addictions Recovery Action Plan*."

Committee members will visit the Edgewood Treatment Centre and Guthrie House in Nanaimo, Fresh Start Recovery and the Aventa Centre of Excellence for Woman With Addictions in Calgary, and Poundmaker's Lodge in St. Albert. With the exception of Guthrie House, a residential treatment program within the British Columbia Justice System, each facility is open to Northerners through the territorial healthcare system.

For further information, please contact:

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Les membres d'un comité permanent visiteront des établissements de traitement des dépendances

Yellowknife, le mercredi 29 novembre 2017 – Les membres du Comité permanent des affaires sociales, présidé par M. Shane Thompson, se joindront au ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux, M. Glen Abernethy, afin de visiter des établissements de traitement des dépendances à Nanaimo, en Colombie-Britannique, et à Calgary et à St-Albert, en Alberta, du 4 au 8 décembre 2017.

Aux TNO, les liens entre les dépendances et la santé mentale sont évidents, notamment parce que l'alcool et les drogues font souvent partie des raisons pour lesquelles les résidents sont hospitalisés pour cause de santé mentale. En outre, les méfaits causés par la consommation d'alcool et de fentanyl préoccupent de plus en plus les Ténois. Cette visite donnera l'occasion aux députés de mieux comprendre l'expérience que vivent les résidents des TNO durant les processus de traitement et de rétablissement.

« L'amélioration des services de santé mentale et de lutte contre les dépendances pour nos résidents est une priorité du Comité. Cette visite nous permettra de recueillir de l'information directement de ceux qui offrent aux Ténois des services de première ligne, déclare M. Thompson. Nous avons un intérêt particulier à l'égard des options de traitement offertes par ces établissements aux Ténois, notamment des programmes uniques pour les résidents autochtones, de même que les différentes formes de soutien et les meilleures pratiques après le traitement. Nous avons hâte de mettre ce que nous apprendrons en pratique dans le cadre de notre travail avec le ministre sur un plan d'action territorial sur la guérison des dépendances. »

Les membres du comité visiteront les centres de traitement suivants : le Edgewood Treatment Centre et la Guthrie House à Nanaimo, le Fresh Start Recovery et le Aventa Centre of Excellence for Woman With Addictions à Calgary, ainsi que le Poundmaker's Lodge à St-Albert. À l'exception de la Guthrie House, où l'on offre un programme de traitement en résidence faisant partie du système judiciaire de la Colombie-Britannique, chaque établissement est ouvert aux Ténois par l'entremise du système de santé territorial.

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MLAs Attends Commonwealth Tax and Public Spending Workshop in London, United Kingdom

(YELLOWKNIFE) Monday, December 4, 2017 – Kieron Testart, MLA for Kam Lake and Danny McNeely, MLA for Sahtu, will take part in a 3-day commonwealth workshop to examine the government’s spending of public money and prevent tax avoidance and to promote tax transparency in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The 2017 Westminster Workshop for Public Accounts Committees (PACs) will bring together over 60 chairs, members and clerks of PACs from across the Commonwealth to offer practical, interactive sessions from 4-7 December in the Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom. Mr. Testart is the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations (SCOGO) and Mr. McNeely is a committee member. SCOGO serves as the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

The skills-based workshop, which has been organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK), is aimed at further building the knowledge and capacity and will include a Tax Transparency Workshop by the OECD. CPA UK is providing partial funding for the attendance of delegates from the NWT in recognition of the limited financial resources available to smaller legislatures, such as the Legislative Assembly of the NWT.

The final day will be dedicated to the 1st Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC), a committee designed to strengthen good governance.

Chair of the UK Public Accounts Committee, Meg Hillier said:

“The 2017 Westminster Workshop provides a unique opportunity for public accounts committees to discuss common challenges and experiences.

“I am pleased to see so many commonwealth PACs working together to strengthen and improve their Committee so taxpayers get the best value for money of public spending.”

Deputy Director of the OECD, Grace Perez-Navarro said:

“Good governance requires a good use of public money which is why I am pleased to be a part of the 2017 Westminster Workshop on Public Accounts Committees.”

Strengthening Commonwealth Public Accounts Committees

The Workshop follows on from a series of recent programmes to strengthen PACs in Commonwealth countries including Ghana and Montserrat will also have representatives participating in the Workshop.

Public Accounts Committees are aimed at examining public spending to ensure taxpayers money is spent effectively and efficiently.

After the agreement of the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), parliamentarians and policymakers nationally and internationally have become increasingly focused on strengthening tax policies and frameworks as a key means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

CPA UK has supported the establishment of the Association throughout its initial formation period and has run the CAPAC Coordinating Unit (CCU) until January 2016. Currently, the CCU is hosted by the Parliament of Malta.

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Workshop Website: <https://www.uk-cpa.org/events-projects/2017-westminster-workshop-for-public-accounts-committees/>

Yellowknife, le 4 décembre 2017 – Kieron Testart, député de Kam Lake et Daniel McNeely, député du Sahtu participeront à un atelier du Commonwealth de trois jours pour examiner les dépenses gouvernementales de fonds publics, éviter l'évasion fiscale et faire la promotion de la transparence fiscale aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO).

Du 4 au 7 décembre, l'atelier 2017 de Westminster pour les Comités des comptes publics (CCP) rassemblera plus de 60 présidents, membres, et greffiers de CCP venus de divers pays du Commonwealth qui participeront à des séances pratiques et interactives tenues dans les Chambres du parlement du Royaume-Uni. M. Testart est le président du Comité permanent des opérations gouvernementales, et M. McNeely en est membre. À l'Assemblée législative des TNO, ce comité est l'équivalent du CCP.

L'atelier, organisé par la section du Royaume-Uni de l'Association parlementaire du Commonwealth, est fondé sur les compétences et axé sur l'acquisition des connaissances et le renforcement des capacités, et comprendra un atelier sur la transparence fiscale offert par l'OCDE. La section hôte fournit un financement partiel aux délégués ténos étant donné les ressources financières restreintes des petites assemblées législatives, comme celle des TNO.

La dernière journée sera consacrée à la première conférence annuelle de l'Association des comités des comptes publics du Commonwealth, un groupe conçu pour renforcer la bonne gouvernance.

Meg Hillier, présidente du Comité des comptes publics du Royaume-Uni, a déclaré :

« L'atelier 2017 de Westminster pour les Comités des comptes publics offre une occasion unique aux Comités des comptes publics de discuter de difficultés et d'expériences communes.

Je suis heureuse de voir autant de CCP du Commonwealth travailler ensemble pour améliorer et renforcer leur comité afin de maximiser les dépenses publiques effectuées avec l'argent des contribuables. »

Grace Perez-Navarro, directrice adjointe de l'OCDE, a affirmé :

« Une bonne gouvernance exige une bonne utilisation de l'argent public; voilà pourquoi je suis heureuse de faire partie de l'atelier 2017 de Westminster sur les CCP. »

Renforcer les Comités des comptes publics du Commonwealth

L'atelier fait suite à une série de programmes récents qui ont pour objectif de renforcer les CCP des pays du Commonwealth; des représentants du Ghana et de Montserrat participeront notamment à l'atelier.

Les CCP ont pour mandat d'examiner les dépenses publiques pour garantir que l'argent des contribuables est dépensé de manière efficace et efficiente.

Suivant l'adoption du Programme d'action d'Addis-Abeba en 2015, les parlementaires et les décideurs nationaux et internationaux se sont de plus en plus concentrés sur le renforcement des politiques et des cadres fiscaux comme moyens clés pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable.

La section du Royaume-Uni de l'Association parlementaire du Commonwealth a appuyé la création d'une association depuis sa formation et a assuré le fonctionnement de l'unité de coordination de l'Association des comités des comptes publics du Commonwealth jusqu'en janvier 2016. À l'heure actuelle, le fonctionnement de l'unité de coordination est assuré par le Parlement de Malte.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, communiquez avec :

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