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The Honourable Frederick Blake Jr, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, March 28, 2022****Members Present**

Hon. Diane Archie, Hon. Frederick Blake Jr., Hon. Paulie Chinna, Ms. Cleveland (remote), Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Mr. Edjericon, Hon. Julie Green, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martselos, Ms. Nokleby, Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Semmler (remote), Hon. R.J. Simpson, Mr. Rocky Simpson, Hon. Shane Thompson, Hon. Caroline Wawzonek (remote).

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.): Good afternoon, Members, and welcome back to the Assembly. I hope that it was a productive March Break - speaking with constituents, spending time with family and friends, and getting out on the land to start of spring in the North.

Members will note some changes in the legislative Chamber. Today, the Legislative Assembly will host its first hybrid sitting, with Members participating remotely.

Pursuant to Rule 10.1(2)(b) I have, at their request, allowed the following Members to participate in part of this sitting remotely:

- Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.
- Member for Kam Lake.
- Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Pursuant to Rule 10.2, these Members will be counted for the purpose of determining quorum, are considered to be in attendance, and may vote on any matter in which they are entitled to vote as though they were participating in person.

For those Members attending in person and visitors in the gallery, you will be required to use a headset on channel 2 to hear Members who are participating remotely. Without a headset, you will not be able to hear these Members.

Also for Members in attendance, pursuant to Rule 10.3(2), all votes on readings of bills and any other motion that requires notice will be conducted as recorded votes.

Members, our first hybrid sitting will be a challenge but I know you're up to it. Members have a busy and full week of work ahead of them with important matters before you. This work must be done.

I ask that today, and every day, Members exercise patience as well as resolve any technical issues

that arise. Also, it is more important than ever that we talk slowly and wait for your microphone to turn on. And if you do not, the interpreters or those appearing remotely will not hear you.

As always, I expect the respect and courtesy shown to each other will continue throughout this hybrid sitting. Thank you, Members.

Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 232-19(2):
ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY**

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, the current invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a stark reminder of the importance of Arctic sovereignty. We share a unique border with Russia - the Arctic Ocean. As the Arctic takes a more predominant role on the international stage, we want to ensure that the needs of Northerners remain a priority for Canada. It also means that the aspirations of Northerners be given appropriate attention and that we eliminate the gaps between northern and southern Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, Russia has broad interests in the Arctic, including advancing a claim under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that comes to the edge of Canada's 370-kilometer exclusive coastal economic zone off the coast of Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Canada has also submitted a claim.

Territorial Premiers recently wrote to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Council of Federation Chair, BC Premier John Horgan, to convene urgent discussions on Arctic sovereignty and security. We believe that this issue needs to be a priority for all Canadians moving forward. I will be tabling both of those letters later today.

Earlier this month, I attended a confidential briefing with officials at the highest level of military, security, and intelligence branches of the federal government. I've also met with Anita Anand, the Minister of National Defence, and Dan Vandal, the Minister of Northern Affairs, to discuss Arctic sovereignty and security and how we can work closer together moving forward.

The strategic importance of the Arctic has been increasing due to climate change and the opening of Arctic waters, as well as the wealth of resources that the Arctic holds, Mr. Speaker. This heightened interest is not only from Russia but other world powers, like China, the United States, and other Arctic nations. It is paramount for Northerners that we are involved in decisions that impact the North.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to supporting Canada in its efforts to show leadership in asserting Arctic sovereignty by empowering and equipping communities to be both resilient and responsive in the changing geo-political landscape. From a Northwest Territories perspective, peace and cooperation among circumpolar countries are essential for healthy and vibrant Arctic communities. This is something we value.

Mr. Speaker, northern security is not just about a military presence. It is also about building strong resilient communities through significant investment in critical infrastructure like roads, telecommunications and energy. It also means strong healthcare and education systems and the elimination of gaps between north and south. Decisions about the North must be made by Northerners. After all, Northerners have the biggest stake in a strong and sustainable Arctic.

As outlined in the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework, the Government of the Northwest Territories has a vision of strong, self-reliant people and communities working together for a vibrant, prosperous, and sustainable Arctic and northern region. By achieving this vision both at home and abroad, it supports Canada's enduring Arctic sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to working across borders and with Indigenous Northerners to improve the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 233-19(2):
WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION SAFETY CERTIFICATE FOR
YOUNG WORKERS

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am very pleased to share the details of a safety certificate training course for new and young workers available through the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

Workplace accidents and injuries happen to employees in various professions and age groups but younger workers with less experience are often at greater risk of getting hurt. The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has developed a 2-hour interactive online course that will give young workers the basic knowledge they need to help start their working lives safely.

The course training covers the rights and responsibilities of workers and includes important safety topics that are useful for youth, including safety while working on the land.

When they complete the course, they will also receive a certificate.

There are also useful course guidelines available to help teachers, instructors, and anyone working with youth, to help them prepare for their first job. The training course and instructors' guide are available at no cost on the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission website.

Employees play a very important role in promoting and maintaining safety and a healthy workplaces. By educating employees on workplace safety when they are young, we are helping them to build a safer, healthier, and more efficient workforce for their future.

I'd like to also include a thank you to the staff of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission for putting this website course together. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1042-19(2):
MIKE ZUBKO AIRPORT PROJECT

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak about the government's plans to resume work on the runway extension at the Inuvik Mike Zubko Airport. This contract is funded by the Canadian Department of National Defence as the airport is a forward operating location for CF18 operations and will also expand the airport's capacity bringing great economic benefits and employment.

Mr. Speaker, the tender was awarded to a company jointly owned by Inuvialuit Development Corp, EGT Northwind, and the Gwich'in Development Corp.

Shockingly, it has come to my attention that work on this incredibly important project has recently been stopped or delayed by our government. It has

been stopped at a time when Arctic sovereignty is top national priority in light of Russian aggression in the Ukraine and despite the fact that Captain Cameron Hillier of NORAD has said the runway will allow a wider variety of military aircraft to deter, detect and, if necessary, defeat future threats to North America.

It is my understanding that they have stopped work on this project because of detailed engineering budget provided by consortium is approximately \$40 million higher than the government initial costing, which was without transparency regarding its details or core assumptions, and before COVID-19 caused disruptions to the global supply chain and increases to the cost of steel and other materials.

It is also my understanding that they are refusing to allow an extremely time-sensitive phase of this work to be completed this spring despite the consortium's offer to perform work concurrently to a third party review of the budget, keeping the project timeline on track, protecting Indigenous obligations, and local employment. They have repeatedly flagged the impacts of work stoppage on the overall project timeline. They have repeatedly requested to sit down with our government to find a solution. They have repeatedly requested details on the government's costing to help identify disparities. They have repeatedly offered productive solutions to reduce GNWT risk in the matter and keep this project on track. And yet, our government has not sat down with them, has not provided any details about costing and has not done anything to prevent this unnecessary delay. All our Premier is publicly requesting meetings with the prime minister to discuss Arctic security, and today in her Minister statement as well.

It is clear we cannot have any confidence in the safety and security of our region as our government won't do anything to ensure the safety and security of our country, I will have questions for the Minister of Infrastructure, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1043-19(2):
STUDENT ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a decade ago the Supreme Court of Canada released a unanimous decision recognizing that learning to read is not a privilege but a basic and essential human right when it found that a BC student had a right to receive the intensive supports and interventions they need to learn to read. This year the Ontario Human Rights Commission released the right to read inquiry report on human

rights issues affecting students with reading disabilities calling for critical changes to Ontario's approach to early reading and curriculum and instruction screening, reading interventions, accommodations, and professional assessments. The report includes over 150 recommendations to address systemic issues and affect the right to learn to read including making access to interventions equitable for all students, improving access to professional assessments, ensuring greater consistency and transparency in the assessment process.

There are certainly differences of opinion on the best way to teach a child to read but regardless on what end of the science of reading that you follow, the need for access to intervention and supports are consistent.

Many students' reading difficulties are not being caught early which has significant consequences. Age 4 to 7 is a critical window for teaching children foundational learned reading skills and is when intervention is most effective. Many students who are not progressing as expected in reading are falling through the cracks and not getting timely intervention and supports, Mr. Speaker.

Literacy does not only have consequences for a child's ability to excel in learning, struggles with literacy are directly linked to depression and anxiety, school avoidance, acting, being bullied or victimized, and self-harm. Literacy levels can have negative impacts on employment and lead to lower incomes, poverty, homelessness, and higher rates of involvement in crime and incarceration. Learning to read isn't a 'nice to have' skill; it's a 'need to have' skill and a lifeline, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in elementary school aged constituent of mine is now nearing their audiology appointment after a year and a half and this wait time is standard. Lack of access to speciality services impacts all of our residents, especially our youngest ones and not only with regard to literacy. These services are fundamental to the development of neuro divergent children and youth, to people with Parkinson's and MS - the list of it is exhaustive.

Mr. Speaker, the right to equal education includes the right to read, and the right to read and being educated depends on access to support services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1044-19(2):
ECONOMY

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during this session, and all throughout this

term for that matter, I've talked about the economy and about the need for our government to put greater emphasis on the economic recovery for the people of the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, when I talk about the economy and economic recovery from the effects of the pandemic I you refer to the economy as a whole, to all sectors, to large and small businesses alike within the NWT. We cannot focus on any single industry alone. We must consider the big picture and envision the long-term goals of what we want to achieve overall. We need to think big and we need to do all that we can do to bring back and revitalize areas of our economy that have faltered in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, we need to welcome back all sectors of the economy into the NWT. No economic sector should be blocked from pursuing business interests within the NWT. All areas need to be welcomed back with open arms. Simply put, we need to open the NWT up for business.

We need to rebuild's international reputation as a desirable location to do business. For the last several years, the NWT has been the only northern territory to experience a decline in our GDP levels. Both Yukon and Nunavut have had steadily increasing levels of their gross domestic product than the NWT has. This needs to change.

The NWT cannot remain as an outlier among Canada's territories as a negative economic output as we currently do.

Mr. Speaker, exports, imports and business investment for the NWT all continue to trend downward. Government spending continues to be the bulk of the economy for the NWT, which is not sustainable at all. The NWT cannot rely solely on government for economic activity. The economies of all provinces and territories around the NWT are doing very well for themselves so why can't we be doing the same? How is that the Yukon and Alberta can balance their budgets yet we can barely achieve an operating surplus for the NWT?

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

---Unanimous consent granted

Mr. Speaker, among the issues that the NWT faces is a lack of revenue and a large amount of spending. The government renewal initiative will likely help to cut some our spending and may help create more efficiencies of our programming. However, we need to be doing more than thinking out of the box for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we need a strong and diverse economy that can withdraw a storm like COVID-19.

If our provincial and territorial neighbors can come out of this pandemic stronger than before, then so should the NWT. I will have questions for the Minister of Finance at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1045-19(2):
CHEETAH RESOURCES

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the mineral resource sector plays a significant role in the development of the Northwest Territories. This 19th Legislative Assembly recognized that fact and committed support to increase resource exploration and development.

Mr. Speaker, over the last several decades, the community of Hay River has played an integral part in the development of the North. For years, Hay River has been a staging point for goods and equipment transported to the community by rail and truck prior to loading on barges for points farther north. Not only are remote northern communities dependent on the marine transportation services offered by MTS, the oil, gas and mineral resource sectors have and continue to rely on those services.

Mr. Speaker, for the next two to three years Cheetah Resources will be moving approximately 5,000 tonnes of rare earth mineral concentrate from the Nechalacho North T pit. Pending receipt of authorization for the Tardiff expansion from the Mackenzie Valley Land & Water Board, and a bankable surface lease from the GNWT, the shipments would increase to 25,000 tonnes per year in 2024-2025.

Through use of marine, rail, and truck services, Cheetah's Rare Earth Resource Project will have a significant and positive impact on the community of Hay River. Concentrate will be shipped via barge from the east side of Great Slave Lake to Hay River where it would be stored waiting further shipping south via rail and/or transport trucks.

Mr. Speaker, next month, Cheetah is making a trial shipment of 500 tonnes of rare earth concentrate to its extraction plant in Saskatoon. This will provide Cheetah an opportunity to evaluate the intermodal systems this project will require going forward.

To put these quantities into perspective, 25,000 tonnes would be 25 to 35 of MTS's 1000 or 1500 series barges. With three barges per tug, this would be eight to twelve sailings a year. If all the southbound shipments went by rail, it would be about 500 southbound railcar loads and, if by truck,

it could be as high as 1300 trucks per year. Ideally, back hauls from the diamond mines would be utilized to avoid an increase in the number of trucks emitting CO2 into the atmosphere. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

Mr. Speaker, the impact on MTS would be increased fleet utilization and additional revenues to offset current operating losses.

Mr. Speaker, for the community of Hay River, it would translate into additional jobs, opportunities for local businesses, increase utilization of the marine training centre, and solidifying Hay River's position as the marine transport hub for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Members' statements. Member for Great Slave.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1046-19(2):
CHILD CARE FEE REDUCTIONS

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I wish I had done my statement on Cheetah today as well.

The recent announcement on the childcare fee reduction, CCFR, subsidy, will reduce fees by 50 percent on average for families with children five years of age and younger. This only applies for those attending licensed programs where the provider has opted into the program.

Since the announcement of the subsidy, several issues have been raised by providers and parents about ECE's plan - concerns around the timeline of the rollout, as well as the pressure being placed on providers to sign on without clear information.

Many questions about policy and procedure remain unanswered and caregivers are burdened with trying to explain the new program to parents when they don't have a clear understanding of it themselves.

A restriction on fees means providers are unable to give their staff the raises they had planned that was to result in them receiving a living wage. Additionally, there is an increase in the administrative burden on what are generally small businesses or NGOs.

The government promises that childcare will eventually be \$10 a day and 230 new spaces are to be created which raises questions. With \$50 million coming from the federal government, how much is going to be used to physically create daycare spaces in communities that current don't have any?

Where are we going to get the people to work in these facilities, new or existing? We already have issues with recruitment and retention and now we are capping the ability of day cares to create revenue for themselves through fee raises. This puts the provider in a hard position of hiring lesser qualified staff and leading to a higher incident of turnover. Staff, I may add, that is traditionally female. Was our new government-wide gender lens applied when it was decided to cap fees prohibiting providers from giving raises? And what happens in communities where there are no providers?

Again, the unique situation of the North has been overlooked in what is a southern Canadian solution. Many parents in communities rely on family members or unlicensed homes to take care of their children. How are they supposed to access this subsidy? Why hasn't the GNWT fought for an exception from the feds to allow all NWT parents to benefit from this subsidy, not just those in our wealthier capital or regional centres? Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, providers and caregivers continue to write to us, hoping to be heard, and for ECE to really work with the providers to determine the best path forward so that relief can be found and looking for supports so that they can continue to provide an essential service to our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1047-19(2):
CHEETAH RESOURCES

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years we have seen the evolution of an ambitious innovative mining project in the Tu Nedhe Willideh riding. The Nechalacho rare earth mining is the largest private sector project in the riding, and it is having a significant job to business impacts for us.

The project began last summer 110 kilometers southeast of Yellowknife. By the end the first season, Nechalacho had a mine of 5,000 tonnes of crush concentrate over a thousand tonnes of exceptionally highgrade rare earth ore. At the end of the season, 500 tonnes of concentrate of exceptionally high grade ore was shipped by our government marine transportation to Hay River for intermodal train and truck shipping to Saskatoon for further processing. This valuable NWT resource will be further processed for sale to international refineries in Norway and likely Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, this project marks the NWT and Canada bold entry into the global markets supply chain for critical rare earth elements. When we drive our trucks, use our cell phones, click on our computers, or build fibre optic lines, we are using rare earth. They are essential for our clean tech and high tech industry, and the need for them is growing at an incredible rate. The proponent are Vital Metal Limited of Australia and it's Canadian mining company Cheetah Resources Corporation, headquartered here in the NWT.

They have designed one of the most efficient environmental low impact mines in Canada.

They have impressive social benefits including 70 percent of Indigenous employment among their workers and management. Mr. Speaker, many are from my community of Wiilideh and Lutsel K'e and Deninu Kue.

It's also the first mine in Canada to concentrate on an Indigenous-owned corporation. The Yellowknives Dene First Nation Det'on Cho Corporation to conduct mining on its own traditional territory.

Nechalacho is Canada's first rare earth mine. It's starting out small, Mr. Speaker, but as early as 2024, it plans to move to a much larger deposit with potential to be a multi-generating producer. This expansion -- this can have both long-term benefits for the NWT struggling mining economy.

At the appropriate time, it will be my pleasure to introduce our project senior executive to the Assembly and to ask questions to the Minister of Lands regarding our role in government in enabling this project. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1048-19(2):
MINING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Although some Members of this Assembly supported a priority to increase resource exploration and development, I believe that subsidies are not the best tool to achieve this. Increasing our over-reliance on resource extraction is not my priority but if we are going to provide subsidies, these should be properly configured and evaluated. So I recently reviewed the guidelines and applications forms for the Mining Incentive Program. I'm going to offer a number of observations and suggestions for improvement.

In the last mandate progress report tabled earlier in this sitting, Cabinet says it has completed a review

of the Mining Incentive Program but it has not been publicly released, nor has the response to any recommendations been made public.

I've also asked before about a monitoring and evaluation framework for the program which should form the basis for annual public reporting.

I know our mining minister is a big proponent of ESG, or environmental, social and governance criteria, as a way to promote the NWT as a great place to do mining. However, the Mining Incentive Program applicants are not required to disclose or agree that they are in compliance with laws and do not owe governments any money. Clearly applicants should disclose any land use permits, water licences or other environmental approvals granted to support their program and then ITI can check for compliance itself. There should also be a specific declaration at the end of the application where applicants confirm that they are in compliance with all existing federal, territorial, Indigenous government, and municipal permits or authorizations, and that they will secure any additional requirements before they proceed with work. It should be clear that noncompliance must be disclosed to ITI which can then decide to cancel or withdraw support on any current and possibly future applications. Noncompliant applicants should not be funded or rewarded.

I believe that any applicants should not knowingly be in debt or owe any taxes to federal, territorial, municipal or Indigenous governments. This requirement should also be built into the application forms through a self-declaration and then checked by ITI.

Lastly, the detailed criteria in the guidance documents do not recognize or incorporate any scoring or evaluation with regard to environmental best practices or innovation to reduce environmental disturbance for any exploration or development work. I'll have questions later today for the mining minister. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1049-19(2):
FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The debate for shorter workweeks is not a new one. In 1926, Henry Ford brought in the five-day workweek, and it wasn't until 1960 that Canadian formally adopted a 40-hour workweek. And Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time that the NWT be a leader in introducing the four-day workweek.

The pandemic has brought the debate of the four-day workweek back into light as workplaces seek to find a better work-life balance and, as we all know, many workplaces have struggled with recruitment and retention. The GNWT is not alone in that.

Mr. Speaker, numerous municipalities, including Guysborough, Nova Scotia and Sackville, New Brunswick, have switched their staff to a four-day workweek. They found that sick days went up and, in some cases, so did productivity, Mr. Speaker.

Numerous tech companies across the world are introducing summer Fridays where they introduce the four-day workweek across the summer, Mr. Speaker. I believe this is a step we could take; perhaps a great follow-up to the infamous Donny Days.

Mr. Speaker, in February, the country of Belgium announced that it would be introducing the four-day workweek, along with a right to disconnect and ignore messages from employers outside of work hours. I would love that right, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I applauded the Minister of Finance when she brought in the Work From Home Policy and I believe it is time that we introduce a four-day workweek. There is a lot of different ways this could work, Mr. Speaker. One option is four 10-hour shifts, so the amount of hours is not actually worked but people can take Fridays or Mondays off. Another option is to shorten the days and hopefully we can negotiate actually lowering the pay, Mr. Speaker. At some point, I don't believe that our retention issues are going to be solved by paying our public servants more money but I think offering them a four-day workweek might really help our recruitment and retention, Mr. Speaker.

Later today I will have questions of the Minister of Finance about whether we can become a leader in this area and one of the most flexible employers and encourage our private sector to do so as well, so people can get out there and enjoy long weekends all summer, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions -- oh, sorry. Member for Nahendeh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1050-19(2):
BEAVERTAIL JAMBOREE AND CABIN FEVER
DAYS

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that.

Mr. Speaker, spring jamborees and carnivals have been a fixture of the social calendar of many NWT

communities throughout the year. This is a time for residents to gather for traditional skills competitions, dances, games, and most importantly tame together to catch up. Unfortunately, the last couple years have been seen a modified or cancelled jamborees or carnivals across the NWT. Many factors were considered on how they would run the event during the COVID pandemic. Ultimately, it was about protecting the health and safety of Northerners and our civil responsibility to help stop the spread of COVID-19 that helped them make the final decision.

As the pandemic restrictions are being eased now, this means a lot especially with the gathering in our small NWT communities. As in the past, there has been opportunities to host the jamborees and carnivals, allowing us to see familiar faces from around the community and region, and people really look forward to these times.

I am happy to say that Beavertail Jamboree, held in Fort Simpson March 6th to the 13th, the organizing committee was able to host several events such as the family snow sculpting contest, the hockey game, basketball tournament, a snowmobile drive, snowmobile races, radio bingo, a chili cook-off, crib tournaments, pancake breakfasts, drum dance and fireworks. I am happy to say that everybody that enjoyed their time. And I am very tell everybody my son did win the chili cook-off. I am very proud of him of this. It was very hot from what I have heard so I am very happy to say he's learnt to cook well.

The two events that were not scheduled were the youth and adult talent show and dance, and they would be looked at maybe holding them this summer.

Mr. Speaker, what I have been told from varied residents, people are very happy we had that opportunity to get together.

Mr. Speaker, the hamlet of Fort Liard will be hosting Cabin Fever Days from April 15th to the 18th. They have developed a jam-packed weekend. This, they will be hosting a poker tournament, drum dance, hand games tournament, outdoor games for adult and youth, two community barbecues, a bazaar, Johnny Landry Band will be there, Easter egg hunt, and crib tournament, and jigging contest, drum dance, and sliding party. I wish them a good time and good weather. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a visitor from Australia is Mr. Geoff Atkins, chief founder and the managing director of Vital Metals Limited, the parent company Vital Metals Canada and Cheetah Resources. Mr. Atkins brings to Canada an extensive career of experience in the rare earth mining and marketing industry. If you could maybe put your hand up.

Also, Mr. Speaker, well-known businessman David Connelly and vice-president of strategy and corporate affairs of Cheetah Resources Corp. Cheetah is headquartered here in Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Connelly is one of the team responsible for bringing the Nechalacho project to the market. Mr. David Connelly.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Braden is a former elected Member of this Assembly, and has found life after politics as a freelance writer and photographer. He is here today as the media relations manager for Cheetah Resources. Mr. Bill Braden.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Cody Drygeese is a member of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and is the environmental officer for Cheetah Resources and Nechalacho project. Mr. Drygeese has extensive experience in the environmental field in the diamond industry here in the NWT. Mr. Cody Drygeese.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to rise to acknowledge the members from Cheetah Resources that are here, as well Mr. Bill Braden is my constituent in Great Slave and formerly held my seat. I did not do my statement on Cheetah Resources today, but I think everybody knows how I feel about our resource extraction industry and I can't support them enough. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, I guess this is a Cheetah day here, so. I had the pleasure of meeting George Atkin. He spent 40 hours on a plane. He missed the, because of flight connections he was long overdue at airports, but he had the opportunity to meet with me and Minister Wawzonek and the Premier today at lunchtime, as well as David Connelly. I also understand that Cody

Drygeese is here as well as Bill Braden, from Cheetah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Honourable Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I would be negligent if I didn't also recognize Cheetah Resources in the gallery today. As stated earlier, my family has been in the industry longer than I have been born, over 60 years. I think our previous MLA Bill Braden, BradenBurry, was part of the resource sector, indirectly, as well, so a lot of knowledge in the gallery today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Range Lake. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Colleagues, I too would like to welcome Mr. Bill Braden, former Member of Legislative Assembly. Welcome back. It's always good to see you. Also if we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber and I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience. Mahsi.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Acknowledgements. Oral questions. Oral questions. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 1040-19(2):
MIKE ZUBKO AIRPORT PROJECT

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure.

Work has been stopped or put on hold on a project that has major implication for local employment and national security. Is the Minister aware of the pressing timeframe issue regarding the next phase of work and that if a one cubic meter trench is not completed before this spring's thaw, the project will be delayed for at least one year, jeopardizing the project's timeline and national security related to Arctic sovereignty; yes or no?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the Minister's department are knowingly causing a delay to a project of major national security importance. Minister, what has the government done to avoid this delay and to move this work forward on its intended timeline in the interests of national security and to assist with post-pandemic

economic recovery of our local businesses? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the senior officials from Infrastructure, as well as the contractor, and National Defence, are meeting this afternoon to have that discussion. And may I further add that as the Premier's statement earlier mentioned that, you know, she's having discussions with the briefing officials at the highest level of military/security/intelligence branches of the federal government and also met with Minister Anand on the -- Minister of National Defence, and Minister Vandal as well. Thank you.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's -- it's really hard to have some positive with this -- this Minister right now because before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, you know, this wasn't even at the surface. This delay has been going on. This is not anything new. And we're only looking at it now because we've been raising the issue. You know, I -- I -- Mr. Speaker, with everyone looking at Arctic security, will the Minister use her power to direct her department to stop holding up this important phase to get the contractors on it ASAP and not to delay this project by a year? It's been delayed long enough. Our local businesses need to get to work on this project.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned there's a meeting that's currently underway as we speak at the deputy minister level, and we'll be providing an update on the joint venture once we have concurred on a way forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: My final supplementary is this: Minister, you know, with the amount of this phase that's been allocated, it's a small amount that needs to be done before the thaw. You know, I know it's cold today but it can change next week. So what I'm asking is this Minister to direct her staff to release that \$8 million to get going on this phase that we won't lose a year. The rest of the project, the -- you know, after the meeting today but will she commit to that today?

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member mentioned, the project came in significantly over budget; more than what the GNWT estimates and more than a third party estimate that used information that was collected by regional contractors. The -- you know, it's -- I understand where the Member's coming from. I mean, Inuvik is my community as well and this is something that, you know, we push at the Premier's level, to have that discussion with National Defence

so we don't lose the time. So I'm hoping for a favourable outcome today as a result of those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 1041-19(2):
STUDENT ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES

MS. CLEVELAND: [Remote] Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Some people experience with accessing or working to access support services feel that support services from NTHSSA are at an all-time low and are very siloed in today's environment. Schools are currently trying to find funds to pay out-of-pocket to secure access to support services like speech language pathology, occupational therapy, but this is incredibly costly.

So will the GNWT work with schools to fund access to support services if it does not have the capacity to deliver those services in house? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the Member bringing this question forward. We recently reorganized speech language pathology to focus on more equitable service delivery for children in age birth to five years old. So we did that knowing that this is a critical period of a child's development and that there are considerable wait times for rehabilitation services, and we wanted to make sure that we could improve the turnaround time for these basic screening tools that practitioners use with this group. So equity is really our concern here, and the refocus of service in speech language pathology is the means that we're taking.

We have high staff vacancy rates in these rehabilitation service areas, and so as a result we have long wait times. The problem is that as with other healthcare professionals, there is a very strong demand for these -- for these professions and not a very robust workforce and so we, like everywhere else in the country, have experienced a shortage of people in these areas and the result is unfortunate wait times for patients. Thank you.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the Minister's willingness to have this conversation together. Today, many schools are fall -- are finding that they -- they follow the process to reach out to secure support services within NTHSSA but that they don't necessarily hear

back from NTHSSA about the appointments, the timing to wait for them, or the availability.

And so will Health and Social Services commit to service standards for schools so that schools are able to communicate not only with students and families but also understand what is required to access supports for students? Thank you.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to be able to make a commitment to service standards knowing that we are short-staffed and that the answer may be greater spending which we don't have in the budget at this time. But certainly I don't see any reason that people who call and ask for appointments can't receive accurate information about their wait times so that they can make informed decisions about what their next steps are. Thank you.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the Minister's comment. Some of the problem, though, is that without the service standards, some people aren't receiving that phone call back or that email back to let them know that it's going to be a year or a year and a half or two years before a student receives services. So the schools are really unable to make alternate arrangements or alternate plans for the care and the learning and development of that student.

And so will the Minister commit, then, to response service standards for school professionals so that NTHSSA is committing to responding to schools within a certain amount of time so that they can move on to other alternative approaches? Thank you.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that what I can commit to is to learn more about the detail of this area and to consult with my colleague from ECE to sort out how we can handle these requests more efficiently so that parents have a clearer idea sooner in the day about where they stand accessing rehabilitation services. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate that this is a bigger conversation, and I welcome having a larger conversation with the Minister for sure. And one of the things that might be helpful for both schools and residents alike is having a public reporting mechanism where people can really see what the realistic wait times are for different specialty services in the Northwest Territories. And then from there, are able to either make alternate arrangements or look at other interventions in the meantime, especially when it comes to learning and

development of students across the Northwest Territories.

So is the Minister willing to commit to public reporting of wait times for NTHSSA specialty services? Thank you.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question. I know that the department does track wait times in both the Beaufort Delta and through Stanton Territorial Hospital for these specialties, rehabilitation services for children. I am not clear how this information is shared with the public. But I would like to find that out and I, on the face of it, would like to advocate that this information be shared with the public so that people can make appropriate decisions about alternatives. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Great Slave.

QUESTION 1042-19(2):
IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL CHILDCARE
SUBSIDY

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

What is considered to be a living wage in each of the communities where childcare is expected, and what is our plan to ensure that childcare providers can pay that wage to workers as part of the subsidized program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So as most people are aware, we recently signed a deal with the Government of Canada for around \$50 million, and that is to help us transition to a system of universal childcare. There are a number of aspects to this. The first aspect that is rolling out across Canada is to reduce fees for parents by 50 percent on average.

The Member raises some good points. There are other issues. Staffing has always been an issue. And in terms of a living wage, we don't have -- I don't have the stats for living wages in every community. I know that in some of the regional centres, it's around \$25 an hour.

Currently, ECE provides retention bonuses or additional subsidies to early childhood staff based on their level of education and so those staff do receive up to \$12,000 a year in subsidies from ECE. And starting in the upcoming fiscal year, which is just around the corner, there is going to be an additional retention incentive bonus for all early

learning and childcare staff, and that is until we get a wage grid in place so that early childhood educators are recognized for the work that they do and are paid appropriately. Thank you.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the Minister answered my next question so I can have one additional one.

So my next question is with the ongoing housing crisis in the NWT, we have a shortage of day home spaces that are available in several of our communities, as well there may be issues with housing any workers that we may be able to recruit given low wages and not meeting the living wage. How is the department working to remove the barriers in place to create new day home and daycare infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And for the past couple years, we've had an early childhood infrastructure fund. It's a million dollars a year. There's been great uptake on that. But the fact is that we need third parties to want to provide childcare. In many communities, there -- it's already happening - Indigenous governments are doing it, non-profits are doing it. But some of the difficulties in communities without childcare is the lack of a provider, and in other communities there's just no children under the age of five. There's no need for childcare. And yet other communities, they would prefer that their children stay with family members. So there's a number of reasons that some communities don't have childcare facilities, and that may be always the case.

In terms of what we're doing to increase the number of family day homes, now is an opportune time to get the word out there that running a family day home is a good business opportunity. And we are trying to expand childcare spaces and so we want to encourage people to look into that opportunity. We have funding. If you want to become a day home provider to make the necessary renovations, do some of the upgrades that are required, and I believe in the future we're going to start doing more promotion of that because we want more people to get into that industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah, the Minister raises some other issues that I sort of struggled to wrap my head around.

As we look at this subsidy, one of the things that I've been hearing is that in the communities without licensed daycare spots, a lot of times it's family, it's grandparents, all of that, that are providing the daycare or the services. So to me, it seems to make sense if we could look out -- a way outside of the box in order to pay family members in those communities so that the communities can actually get some benefit out of this subsidy.

So is the government committed to finding a way to look at different methods of childcare and thinking outside the box as we don't tend to fit that southern Canadian model all the time? And are we going to look at maybe paying grandparents and other relatives to take care of children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And this has been raised a number of times. And no, we are not going to be exploring those avenues. There has been a desire from some people to have us subsidize more than just licensed centres, so unlicensed centres or family members, but unfortunately we can't be everything to everyone and we have to pick our lane. And so what we're focusing on is early -- licensed early learning childcare spaces. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions, final supplementary, Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that over this weekend that there has been meetings of day home providers, etcetera, to discuss the government's plan. It is my understanding that they are not happy with what is happening with the fee subsidy.

Can the Minister commit to arranging a meeting with those stakeholders in order to hear from them directly what their issues are and perhaps modifying the roll-out in order to address their concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since March, probably March 5th, there's been a number of sessions, a number of meetings between day home providers and staff, and those meetings are going to continue. The difficulty is that, you know, we have a lot of childcare centres and those centres are non-profits, and they are there to -- for the purpose of providing childcare. They're not money making ventures. And so they already have the idea that they want to do what they can to make childcare accessible.

And so the family day homes, on the other hand, are -- they're businesses. And so it's -- perhaps they have -- they have some different motivations. And we're asking them to do something for the greater good but it's not necessarily their role as some of them see it. And so there have been some -- some difficulties. We are trying to work through those. I've asked the department to ensure that we are being as flexible as we can and that we are ensuring that parents aren't going to see any -- or the parents are still going to see that reduction that we promised, that 50 percent on average. So there's ongoing meetings.

There's -- we're happy to have as many meetings as we possibly can. We want to get the information out. We want open lines in communication, and we want parents to see that 50 percent reduction. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 1043-19(2):
ECONOMY

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, according to the budget address for 2022-2023, business investment for 2020 was down minus 34.9 percent for the NWT.

Can the finance minister tell us what the government's plan is to turn those numbers around and increase business investment for the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Minister responsible for Finance.

You're on mute.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to just confirm that I'm being heard? Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So I am quite conscious of the fact that there's been a reduction in the GDP over the last couple of years. We've obviously been through the pandemic and certainly in the last two years, that has been the predominant reason for that. Nevertheless, I think everyone's heard me say that we were in challenging times long before the pandemic and that we had to start looking at our economic situation. So I'm happy to have this question. Mr. Speaker, there's a couple of things.

Firstly, there's the mineral resource sector which continues to be one third of our private GDP contribution, and a lot of work is happening on that side to increase investor confidence, to increase awareness of the geological potential that we have, to incentivize early exploration and to incentivize advanced exploration.

There's also, of course, the other side of more general economic development that's going to diversify our industry. And in that regard, Mr. Speaker, just briefly, we have regional economic development plans underway. We have the Tourism 2025, which will hopefully bring back what was a growing sector and a lot of activity in that regard with the borders reopening. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I'll make note of the fact that we've had very significant capital budgets in the last couple of years signalling that we are going to do as a government what we can to use our financial muscle to make sure that we're moving projects

forward and giving access to those projects across the territory, which of course provides opportunity for local contractors to be involved but also builds up some of the infrastructure that we're hoping will then support continued growth and diversification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, according to our recent budget address, the NWT's real GDP level was minus 10 percent for 2020. In fact, for three out of the previous five years, the NWT has experienced a decline in the GDP growth.

Can the Minister tell us what the government's plan is to reverse course and increase GDP growth for the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So Mr. Speaker, again, I'm certainly following the numbers as well, and I'm pleased to have an opportunity to speak to them. You know, and again, certainly for the last couple of years, a lot of the impacts were seen largely as a result of what was happening internationally and nationally because of the pandemic. That said, there's -- there was, again, some pre-existing -- this is particularly within the mineral resource sector which is such a significant contributor to our GDP and which has such a direct impact on the numbers that are being raised here. So the fact that there's been also a very good recovery post-pandemic or at least -- maybe not post-pandemic but in the last year or so as the pandemic has evolved and changed, I would hope gives us a good signal that we are going to be on a good track.

You know, as far as what we're going to do going into the future, my last answer I already outlined some of what the government is doing. The final -- final impacts will depend a lot on what happens in the private sector but what I want to emphasize is to the extent that we have levers that we can pull, whether it's in capital spending, whether it's in other elements of trying to increase investor confidence, whether it's in supporting the small business sector, you know, through the spectrum of everything from BDIC to seed supports, those are all the types of things we're going to be looking at. And there's not one single thing that we need to do; it's all of the things that we need to do. So I'm conscious of that, and I'm happy to have it made reference of it on the floor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, the finance minister has been promoting the new government renewal initiative as a means to reducing costs for our government.

Can the Minister provide any estimates, any dollar amounts or projection data, which states how much

money this initiative will save the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government renewal initiative was never intended to be an expressed budget cutting initiative or government jobs cutting initiative. It has always been an effort to say, you know, that we look at it having an over \$2 billion budget and yet continue to see needs, continue to see challenges in various -- you know, in various programs or services, and so what we wanted to do was to take a step back and say, look, what are we doing with \$2 billion that can better align with needs, priorities, values. Are there programs that we know are successful that could use more money and programs that perhaps could be shifted and have those resources directed to areas that are finding more success. So that's always been the intention of government renewal, is that we're bringing that culture of evaluation across departments, that we're bringing the culture of understanding what we do, why we do it, how we do it from the front lines, who are being the folks who do the front lines are being interviewed as part of the government renewal, all the way through to the senior management levels where they too, of course, are being interviewed and participating in government renewal. We're on track. The first step is to just get a real handle on the full inventory of what government does, and then the second step is to do the evaluation process. It is taking a while. Again, we're 11 departments. We're a 6,000 strong public service. But if -- to the extent that evidenced-based decision-making is how we want to make those decisions going forward, this is going to give us the evidence to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many of my constituents about the rising cost of living, the reduced purchasing power for people, and the historic levels of inflation, and it affects all consumer goods. Does the Minister of Finance have a plan to address this issue and help alleviate some of these extra costs for the people of the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am quite live to the fact that February 2022 saw an inflation level at 5.4 percent higher than last year. I've certainly been watching inflation not only since 2022 began but since the fall. We've been watching what's been happening geopolitically obviously, as I know everyone has in the last few months, but also even before that with respect to supply chain issues. So, you know, I certainly want to be clear that the Department of Finance is aware of the challenges.

We're aware of the financing impacts. We're looking at the impacts also from the perspective of what that's going to do to the government's revenue situation and our expenses, and there was already matters in the mandate to look at the cost of living and the impact that has on residents, the impact that has on businesses.

So having just answered three questions about the growth of the economy and the growth of business, I can't answer those three questions without always keeping in mind that the realities of supply chain challenges, the realities of inflation rising, those things are going to impact on all those other efforts. So, I mean, the plan is really one that is whole of government. The plan is one that is whole of department in that we don't -- we can't be looking to grow all of these other areas and pretend that we can have economic diversification, economic growth particularly in the small business sector, without knowing that we're going to have to continue to look at what gaps there may be, what funding opportunities we need to be seeking out, whether in partnership with the federal government or otherwise, in order to meet the reality that everyone, from small business to large business to government, are going to be potentially facing some major increased costs over the next year. So I mean, there's not a silver bullet here, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to pretend that there is. You know, there's a couple of governments who might be giving a few hundred dollars out and for some that might be helpful, and for others that certainly won't be enough. So there's -- I'm not going to pretend there's a silver bullet, Mr. Speaker, but I want to make everyone very clear and very sure that we are going to be watching this and monitoring this, and as we've done throughout the pandemic, doing our best to fill in the gaps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 1044-19(2):
LAND USE PLANNING

MR. EDJERICON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Lands with devolution.

Mr. Speaker, our government assumed increasingly authority for the responsible management of lands in the NWT, including the administration of mining and exploration land use. Would the Minister outline for the Assembly what those responsibilities are? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Minister responsible for Lands.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to do it from here but it's probably

going to miss some few things that we do at the Department of Lands.

As the Member for Thebacha was talking about, we're trying to get the regulations done for the -- so we can then do the public lands enforcement. We're modernizing the land use only policy, revised project assessment policy. We talked about securities, project assessment. We were working on industry surface review. So we're working out there, land use and sustainability. I'm missing one, sorry. I had it written down here.

We're also doing a review of the securities. We are working with that. We have reached out to the Department of -- or the Chamber of Mines to coordinate it, and we have one interested company that's specifically asking to do that. We are also doing enforcement. And most importantly, we are trying to deal with rights-based cabins and unauthorized occupancy, but. And then we also do land use plans working with Indigenous governments and the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Specific to the Nechalacho project, could the Minister outline the current status of the Nechalacho land use permit? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Member for the question.

The department executed a seven-year industrial lease for Cheetah to support the demonstration mining project on April 23, 2021. Cheetah's now seeking a potential for a 30-year lease for mining proposals as they are working towards the mining phase of the project. The department has been working collaboratively with both Cheetah and the Department of Justice to ensure that draft release continues to protect the GNWT for liabilities related to the proposed plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that we have -- we are in the discussions with Cheetah Resources about securing a bankable long-term mining lease. This is an essential requirement for any mining project to ensure it has secure tenure and protect its multi-million dollar investment. Could the Minister advise us on the status of the discussion? Mahsi.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Member for the question. So we've been going on for about two years from -- as me from being the Minister. There's been constant communication. As I said today, we did have a productive meeting with Cheetah this morning -- or this afternoon at 12, me and Minister Wawzonek and the Premier. We had a conversation with them. We're getting really close

to hopefully coming up with a final agreement. But at the end of the day, we need to make sure that we protect our environment for future residents. It's about our children, our grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. But in the conversations with Cheetah, I think we're very, very close, and I appreciated Mr. Atkins coming all the way back -- or all the way up from Australia to have these conversations and hopefully we can have closure to this and move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If necessary, would the Minister commit to advising the Assembly on future progress in terms of enabling this project to proceed? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm more than willing to meet with committee to give an update once we finalize it. I don't want to talk about the work and the process it's in right now. I want to be able to get a final closure to it, and then I'm more than willing to bring that information to committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1045-19(2): STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we ever expect to realize living wages for NWT workers, we need increased resource development to move that initiative forward, because we can't rely on finite federal funding to prop up the economy forever.

So Mr. Speaker, the Premier previously stated that the Northwest Territories requires investments and strategic infrastructure that can help to unlock our natural resource potential when seeking commitment from the federal government for 100 percent flexible infrastructure funding. Can the Premier confirm where this government is with respect to achieving those goals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Honourable Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to defer that to the Minister of Infrastructure. She's taking the lead on the infrastructure funding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to report that progress has been made on all three of our strategic infrastructure projects: The Slave Geological Province Corridor, the Mackenzie Valley Highway, and the Taltson Hydro Expansion.

Our work is supported by over \$250 million in combined federal and territorial support to advance these three important projects. Funding to date has been 75 percent federal for Mackenzie Valley Highway/Slave Geological Province and 100 percent federal for Taltson.

While all three of these projects are currently at different stages ranging from a feasibility and planning to environmental assessment, they are all advancing. You know, some of the key milestones for these projects this year include Mackenzie Valley Highway, submission of the developer's assessment report to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board this fall to advancing environmental assessment, advancement of Prohibition Creek and Mount Gadet access road projects.

For the Slave Geological Province Corridor, advance of Indigenous knowledge, environmental engineering work to support future project applications, discussions with Canada and Indigenous governments regarding a request by the Tlicho government to undertake a regional strategic environmental assessment of the project.

Regarding the Taltson Hydro Expansion, routing selection, Indigenous knowledge, environmental and engineering work to support the future project applications, working with our Indigenous partners to discuss commercial structure for the project.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to talk with communities and Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations on these important projects so they are prepared to take advantage of future economic and social benefits. Quyananni.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a mouthful.

Mr. Speaker, extraction of resources is one component of oil and gas and mineral resource development. Refining the product is another. The community of Hay River, with its railhead highway access and marine facilities, is strategically located to accommodate such infrastructure.

Can the Premier confirm what effort or incentives this government puts in to encouraging natural resource development companies to establish processing or process extraction facilities in communities such as Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The responsibility for new businesses is the Minister of ITI. I'd like to defer the question to the Minister of ITI. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Speaker, we're always looking for opportunities. We are happy to work with any proponent, whether that's as a pathfinder of our own processes and our own regulatory processes, whether it's as a pathfinder of understanding what the federal processes might be. Mr. Speaker, obviously, for -- I shouldn't say obviously, but for any larger scale programs they are typically on the mineral resources side, they would involve often IBAs, SEAs, social economic agreements, impact benefit agreements, and so certainly to the extent that they're able to provide value added in terms of, you know, increasing the amount of northern component, then that will, no doubt, be a benefit on those fronts. So, you know, we're certainly happy, as I say, more than happy to work with any project that is looking at developments here in the territory. I expect, really, Mr. Speaker, we'd wind up being whole of government, and we'd probably see Lands involved; you'd probably see ENR involved. And certainly in my experience in the last two years, the LNR departments - Lands, Natural Resources departments - are now actively meeting, actively working together and quite ready to look at those kinds of opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know the resource sector wants certainty respecting complex regulations along with restrictive land use planning legislation and policy - something this and past governments have discussed for years with little to no resolution on how to soften it.

Can the Premier tell me what this government is doing to streamline processes or at least to lay the groundwork for future governments to ensure long-term resource development and processing takes place in the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, that question's for the Minister of ITI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Minister responsible for ITI.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's sort of two parts there. In terms, Mr. Speaker, of knowing the processing side, that's much more complicated. It

involves large tracts of land potentially. But, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the regulatory processes we have here in the territories, we already have the client services/client relations folks within ITI who are system navigators and well known to help proponents get through our system. There's a Mackenzie Valley operational dialogue that's happening right now with the regulatory bodies as well as with government to ensure that we are all working together to make regulatory processes achieve their goals but also being -- achieve their goals of being protective of the interests that they need to protect but of course of being understandable and to the proponents who are going through them. Then, of course, Mr. Speaker, there's the Mineral Resources Act that is currently seeing its regulations being developed which to the extent that we are responsible for our regulatory processes, that is a system that's being codeveloped and worked through the IGCS, the Indigenous governments -- the Indigenous governmental relations. And last thing, Mr. Speaker, you're seeing the same thing happening with public lands. So really our system as a whole now is becoming whole of government, and it's one that is already evolving significantly to be more clear, more transparent, more involved, and will continue to do so over the next couple of years of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with closure of mines and oil and gas facilities come opportunities for reclamation, a discipline where Indigenous and northern-based companies can provide this service.

Can the Minister tell me what supports or plans are in place to ensure that Indigenous and northern companies are prepared to take this work on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with that regard, again, we're looking at multiple departments all working together. ENR does have the lead in terms of developing right now and actively right now developing remediation economy document and strategy so that we best understand where the opportunities lie. ITI and ECE work together in terms of understanding what training opportunities exist and what our labour market needs are going to be over the next few years, including in the remediation sphere. So both of those things are underway. Again, all three departments are actively involved in discussing, one with the other, to make sure that we're also keeping in touch with industry and private sector so that we're not just off developing these things in a vacuum; we're developing these things in lockstep with what's

happening in the private sector and so that we can, of course, best take advantage of those opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1046-19(2):
FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start just by commending the GNWT for some of the creative options it already has such as deferred leave where a worker can take a reduced pay cut for a number of years and then have a year off with leave without pay, or options such as flex days where workers can increase their working hours in a day to get an additional day off. All of which are great programs that cost the GNWT no money but help with retention.

However, Mr. Speaker, I believe we need to go further and try and formalize some policy around a four-day workweek. I have talked to workers who have requested to work four days with the reduced pay cut and have been told no, and those workers have told me they're not already -- they're already not working full time, Mr. Speaker; they're just sitting in a chair, and I don't see why we wouldn't approve them to get that time off. So I think there's a number of different ways to do this but we need to review our policies.

And my question for the Minister of Finance is whether we will review our current leave policies with the aim of allowing more workers to work a four-day workweek? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Minister responsible for Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I heard the Member's statement earlier, I already had a thought of pointing out the fact that there's the ability to work a compressed schedule already. There's the work -- the ability to work a flex schedule already. There's the ability to look at, you know, having deferred leave. There's actually a very flexible set of opportunities in many regards for the employees in the public service. So, you know, whether it's a question of there being some specific employees who may have requested access to some of those programs and being denied, those specific requests should probably come in so that they can be examined individually. I'm not sure that this is necessarily the time to say that the entire system itself isn't being flexible enough when, as I've just noted and as the Member already said, there's quite a number of flexible opportunities already in existence.

At the end of the day, there's operational needs. Some positions aren't going to have the operational capacity to be as flexible as others. Again, I can't say whether or not those are the examples that are being provided here by the Member. But that's always going to have to be an examinations that fundamentally we need to make sure we're providing our programs and services and providing the positions and the staff to do so. But beyond that, Mr. Speaker, we have quite a flexible array of options already and would encourage people to make use of them. Thank you.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that and, you know, I get that certain positions perhaps need the one-off policy, but I think we could really be a leader here and we could find positions and pilot a four-day workweek. Perhaps it's a -- it's a summer Fridays model, which is becoming more common. And then I think we would need to do it as a pilot project and evaluate things such as, you know, were less sick days taken; was there a decline in productivity. I know many workplaces have actually found that it would increase in productivity when shifting to a four-day workweek. So I think we need to be a little bit more conscious of how we are granting that leave to people. And so my question for the Minister of Finance is could we find some units or some appropriate positions and pilot a four-day workweek? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's no plans right now to be piloting a four-day workweek. There are plans right now and work underway to develop a GNWT-wide public service strategy, government -- you know, human resources strategy. So to the extent that we'll be engaging and available to members of the public service to have feedback and to discuss where and what they see as some of the challenges in terms of our -- you know, whether it's morale, whether it's opportunities to be better engaged, whether there's learning plans, whether there's other options, you know, that -- that's the kind of feedback I'm interested to hear. I am not -- as I say, right this moment, there's not a plan to introduce a pilot workweek other than to say that I would certainly encourage folks who are thinking about flexibility to look at the programs that exist and to make those requests, and that might be a good initial step to make sure that they're accessing the programs that are already there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1047-19(2):
MINING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

In my statement, I mentioned that Cabinet says that a review's been conducted of the Mining Incentive Program. Can the Minister confirm whether that has been done and explain why it has not been publicly released nor the response from the department. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been an evaluation of the program done in June of 2020. I know some of that information and some of the matrices that go with it have been shared with committees. No, it has not all gone out to the public but that's not necessarily unusual. Not every evaluation or program review that is done by the GNWT necessarily goes public. In fact, it would be unusual for it to be otherwise. So that said, I'm certainly happy to take this away and take a look at, perhaps as the Department of Finance who would be more of the lead in terms of their evaluations, program evaluations, to look at what more we could release publicly on this particular program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. Yes, and I would like her to release it publicly. I've asked her privately about that, and now I've done it publicly.

Under the current guidelines and forms, applicants are not required to disclose any permits or licenses already obtained to commit to comply with them or disclose billing compliance to ITI if successful. Can the Minister commit to make these changes to the Mining Incentive Program applications to ensure bad actors are not eligible and only legitimate work is funded? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, I am -- the forms have gone out for 2022-2023, but let me be clear, I don't think we -- we don't want bad actors and nor do I believe that we are a wash of bad actors. It is expected that if someone's going to be getting funding to undertake any kind of work anywhere in the Northwest Territories that in order to do so, they're going to have to be compliant with whatever regulatory requirements apply to their project. And I will note I'm told that in the past, in fact ITI has declined to fund projects where their permitting was an issue within the timeframes allotted. So, you know, again, I -- maybe what I'll say is for the 2023-2024 term for the next round, we certainly can be express about that in the forms. There's no harm

in doing so. And it just reinforces our commitment to our regulatory process, makes it clear, and allows applicants to have the opportunity to access client services folks if they need some assistance to make sure that they are properly applying for the regulatory process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. I think that was a yes, and I'm more than happy to take that as a commitment from the Minister, and I think it's a positive contribution I've made to help mining in the NWT.

So there is no requirement, though, in the -- for applicants to disclose whether they are in debt to GNWT or other governments or have unpaid taxes. While GNWT may be able to check some of this internally, the onus should be on the applicants for full disclosure, and those in debt to government should not be funded. Again, can the Minister commit to make these changes to program applications to ensure bad actors are not eligible and only legitimate work is funded? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, that was a yes. Again, I'm confident that the folks that are applying are going to be going through the regulatory process so we will amend the 2023-2024 applications to be clear about that. And let me throw another yes out there.

We will -- again, for 2023-2024, happy to make it very clear that you can't have outstanding debts to the government if you're applying. That, again, that's already the case. The forms may not be express in that regard, and there's no harm in making that very clear, that anyone that's going to be getting funding from the government can't have outstanding debts to the GNWT; they need to be in good standing in order to access further funds. That would certainly be part of that.

So there hasn't been a concern. Again, we tend to have, fortunately, good actors here. But as the Member has said, let's reword them and let's make that clear and make that known, that the folks that are coming up to the Northwest Territories are, in fact, doing so above board and in good standing. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. Two yeses in a row? Wow, that's great, let's keep it up. Go for a third one.

I could not see anywhere in the evaluation criteria or the applications where environmental innovation

or efforts to reduce environmental disturbance is rewarded in any way during the Mining Incentive Program.

Can the Minister explain how environmental best practices and innovation are considered in all Mining Incentive Program applications? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So Mr. Speaker, a lot of the projects, in fact I gather the majority of the projects that are coming through the Mineral Incentive Program, are early stage or fairly low impact projects. So these are not -- they're at the front end of the life cycle, and they're not necessarily ones that would have a significant amount of disturbance. That said, Mr. Speaker, the Member's quite right, I am quite committed to promoting the fact that the Northwest Territories is and will be a growing leader on ESG - environmental, social, and governance factors - and so while we're at it, why don't we look at our 2023-2024 guidelines and make it again very express that we expect industry in the North to adhere to what we already I think saw happening and to what we think is a value -- that brings value add to the industries and to proponents. Namely, that they -- that they do maintain and consider the highest stakes of ESG, or environmental, social, and governance factors. So, you know, it's a yes that has to come with a bit of wording to follow. But, again, we're confident that that's the kind of industry we want here, and it's the add industry we have so I don't expect that that will be -- that we'll be -- I expect that we will be able to find some language that reflects that for the next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

QUESTION 1048-19(2):
MIKE ZUBKO AIRPORT PROJECT

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just I have a couple more questions for the Minister of Infrastructure.

She mentioned that her senior officials will be meeting today with the National Defence. My question is is -- will she reach out to the contractors, their senior officials, and maybe have a tripartite meeting so that we can get the project moving? You can all talk, and you can see how you can resolve to move forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the meeting is happening now and, you know, I'm going to get a brief probably towards

the end of the day, and then we'll -- I'll reach out to the Member and see what we can do because the Member is right, it is an important project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah, this is \$150 million project, possibly more, in our backyard. National security, Arctic sovereignty. You know, everything that we have right now, we're -- we need to -- to this project to move forward. We cannot delay it any further. And I'm just asking the Minister, even if the meeting is on right now, will she commit to meeting with the three tripartite meeting to resolve the further issues. Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are having discussions now, you know, internally. I just -- I want to make note, Mr. Speaker, that this project is a DND project and that, you know, they're fully funding this project. So we need to be able to continue to reach out. And I know time is of the essence, and I'll keep that in mind and we'll see how the meeting goes. And I have been in contact with the contractors; I have been in contact with my senior officials; and the National Defence office as well. Thank you.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister tell us why there's such a big issue to state that she won't say her senior officials, the National Defence, and the contractors can't sit down? This is what they're asking. Can she commit to being transparent and having the meeting with the three of them all together? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I said, I will have to see what came out of the meeting today and perhaps see what the next steps are. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask one more time. Will this Minister, who this project is going to be benefit -- be beneficial to our region, to Canada, to North America, so we don't delay any further, request a meeting of her department and National Defence and the contractors and sit down and have a meeting? Will she? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I said, you know, we are -- this is an important project to my -- my region as well. And, you know, we have been going back and forth. And National Defence announced this project in 2019. So I mean, that was a number of years ago where we, you know, looked at infrastructure and, you know, it's taken some time to be able to look at the project and going forward on how -- you know, how we need to advance it. It is a four-phase

approach. We have packages out. We're working with the contractor to ensure that, you know, we are on par. It's a five-year project, Mr. Speaker, and therefore, it's just something we need to continue addressing with all the parties involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Colleagues, our time for oral questions has expired. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 34-19(2): MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GAP

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 34-19(2) asked by the Member for Yellowknife North on February 24th, 2022, to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs regarding the municipal infrastructure gap.

Municipal and Community Affairs acknowledges that there is a municipal funding gap of approximately \$40 million, of which an estimated \$23 million is related to capital; \$10 million to general operations and maintenance; and \$7 million to water and waste services. This is based on an estimated total of \$3 billion in community government assets.

In 2014, community detail was shared with communities for information purposes to give councils awareness for their budgeting and future programming decisions. At the time of the review, there was very little information on the cost of piped infrastructure, solid waste sites and roads. These are significant municipal government assets; therefore, estimates were made to ensure costs for these assets were included.

Since the 2014 review, the department has been doing research for better costing of community assets. This is an ongoing process that takes time as communities replace these assets infrequently and historical cost information is not available for most communities.

For this reason, the department does not have updated community detail available at this time. An estimate error of \$1 million is less than 1% of the total \$3 billion. However, \$1 million in a particular community would be significant and misleading. It is not in our interest to release what may not be accurate information.

Municipal and Community Affairs will be updating the community government funding policies during the 2022-2023 fiscal year and is committed to creating an advisory group with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities. Costing

estimates, community details and an approach for regular community updates will be shared and finalized with the updated policies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 35-19(2):
NWT HEALTH STATUS CHARTBOOK

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 35-19(2) asked by the Member for Monfwi on February 24th, 2022, to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding NWT Health Status Chartbook.

The NWT Health Status Chartbook was created to provide new and returning NWT legislators with a snapshot of the health status of the NWT residents at the beginning of the 19th Legislative Assembly. The Chartbook is intended to inform MLAs for the purpose of strategic planning and priority setting and for that purpose, is produced every four years to align with the strategic planning and priority setting cycle. The next update of the Chartbook is expected to be released in Fall 2023 before the first sitting of the 20th Legislative Assembly.

One of the key goals of the NWT Health and Social Services system is Best Health. Work to advance this goal is about the health of the population and improving equity of health status across the population. This work includes frequent and regular interaction with organizations, such as non-governmental organizations, community and Indigenous Governments and other relevant authorities. Some of the forums where this happens includes the Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between Indigenous governments and the GNWT where areas of shared interest are discussed; community and regional representation through the Regional Wellness Councils and the Leadership Council that provides advice to the Minister on strategic direction for Health and Social Services delivery.

More frequently produced reports that speak to the delivery of health services are the Annual Reports provided by the health and social services authorities that are tabled in the Legislative Assembly and publicly available. The Annual Reports for 2020-2021 will be tabled this Session. Annual reports provide an overview of the previous year's operations and activities in support of our system's goals to improve health outcomes for NWT residents.

The Department and the health and social services authorities continue work towards the mandate commitments to improve health outcomes of NWT residents. Activities to strengthen identified priority areas include the continued implementation of Primary Healthcare Reform initiatives aimed at

enhancing culturally safe, relationship-based care, work with Indigenous Government organizations to deliver on the land healing Programs, enhanced community mental health and wellness supports, strategic planning to allow for elders and Seniors to age in place with dignity and work to stabilize health human resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to written questions. Replies to Commissioner's address. Petitions. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Kam Lake.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 39:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATION ACT

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 39: An Act to Amend the Post-Secondary Education Act.

Bill 39 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on November 25th, 2021, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for review. On March 24th, 2022, the standing committee held a public hearing with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and completed its clause-by-clause review of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the committee reports that Bill 39: An Act to Amend the Post-Secondary Education Act is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Kam Lake.

BILL 40:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEDICAL
PROFESSIONS ACT

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 40: An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act.

Bill 40 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on November 26th, 2021, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for review. Near the end of the Committee's review period, the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Health and Social Services identified issues with the bill that could require substantial amendments. The committee is willing to work collaboratively with the

Minister of Health and Social Services to try to make improvements to the bill.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Rule 8.3(2) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that the review period for Bill 40: An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act, be extended to May 27, 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. The motion is in order. To the motion? Oh, Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to put it on the record that I support this extension. I believe that, as I understand it, the department requested this extension and it will also give the department more time to go back and work with the professional associations representing some of the medical professions that have expressed a number of concerns as there's work to be done with the committee, but the department also has a lot of work to do, I believe, with medical professionals, and I look forward to the results of those consultations. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. The motion is in order. To the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

The Standing Committee on Social Development's review of Bill 40: An Act to Amend the Medical Professions Act is extended to May 27th, 2022.

Report of committees on the review of bills.
Member for Kam Lake

BILL 41:
JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION STATUTES
AMENDMENT ACT

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 41: Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act.

Bill 41 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on December 7th, 2021, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development. On March 24th, 2022, the standing committee held a public hearing with the Minister of Justice and completed its clause-by-clause review of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the committee reports that Bill 41: Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Reports of committees on the review of the bills. Reports of the standing and special committees. Tabling of documents. Honourable Premier.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 598-19(2):
LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER FROM NORTHER
PREMIERS DATED MARCH 2, 2022 REGARDING
ARCTIC SECURITY

TABLED DOCUMENT 599-19(2):
LETTER TO CHAIR, COUNCIL OF THE
FEDERATION FROM NORTHERN PREMIERS
DATED MARCH 3, 2022 REGARDING ARCTIC
SECURITY

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents:

The letter to Prime Minister from Northern Premiers dated March 2nd, 2022, regarding Arctic Security; and the letter to Chair of the Council of the Federation from the Northern Premiers dated March 3rd, 2022 regarding Arctic Security. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment.

TABLED DOCUMENT 600-19(2):
PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY FOR BILL 47: AN
ACT TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT
STANDARDS ACT, NO. 2

TABLED DOCUMENT 601-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
974-19(2):POLICING

TABLED DOCUMENT 602-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
995-19(2): MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents:

Plain Language Summary for Bill 47: An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act, No. 2; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 974-19(2): Policing; and, Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 995-19(2): Maintenance Enforcement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

TABLED DOCUMENT 603-19(2):
2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY UNDER THE TRANSPORTATION OF
DANGEROUS GOODS ACT

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document:

2021 Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly Under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (1990). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

TABLED DOCUMENT 604-19(2):
2021 ANNUAL REPORT – NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

TABLED DOCUMENT 605-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
916-19(2): HOUSING

TABLED DOCUMENT 606-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
926-19(2): HOUSING – LAND TRANSFER

TABLED DOCUMENT 607-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
930-19(2): HOUSING

TABLED DOCUMENT 608-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
960-19(2): THREE-YEAR ENERGY PLAN

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following five documents:

2021 Annual Report Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board; Follow-up Letter for Oral Questions 916-19(2): Housing; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 926-19(2): Housing Land Transfer; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 930-19(2): Housing; and, Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 960-19(2): Three-Year Energy Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

TABLED DOCUMENT 609-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
956-19(2): PEOPLE PARENTING WITH FASD

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document:

Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 956-19(2): People Parenting with FASD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs.

TABLED DOCUMENT 610-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
993-19(2): CANADIAN RED CROSS

TABLED DOCUMENT 611-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
998-19(2): FIREARMS STORAGE AND LESSONS
LEARNED

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents:

Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 99-19(2): Canadian Red Cross; and, Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 998-19(2): Firearms Storage and Lessons Learned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Member for Hay River South.

TABLED DOCUMENT 612-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, TRAVEL: PROOF
OF VACCINATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
AND NORTHERNERS IN REMOTE
COMMUNITIES AT DECEMBER 1, 2021

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document:

Government of Canada, Travel: Proof of Vaccination for Indigenous Peoples and Northerners in Remote Communities at December 1st, 2021. Thank you.

TABLED DOCUMENT 613-19(2):
SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES FOR THE
PERIOD NOVEMBER 22, 2021 TO FEBRUARY
20, 2022

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Tabling of documents.

Colleagues, pursuant Section 5 of the Indemnities, Allowances, and Expense Regulations of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Summary of Members' absences for the period November 22nd, 2021 to February 20th, 2022.

Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Motions. Notices of motion for the first reading of bills. First reading of bills. Minister responsible for Finance.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 49:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2021-2022

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to present to the House Bill 50: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022 to be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Pursuant to Rule 8.2(3), Bill 49: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022 has been presented, deemed read for first reading for the first time, and is ready for second reading.

First reading of bills. Minister responsible for Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 49: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022 be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for the infrastructure expenditures of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister. Please, we're doing the first reading of bills. I believe you had another first reading of bills. I know it's Monday, but... oh, you're on mute.

BILL 50:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 3, 2021-
2022

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: I'm not on mute on my end, Mr. Speaker, but I do apologize. It does seem that I have a number of things in front of me and people are buzzing me actively to tell me that I've done this incorrectly.

So Mr. Speaker, I do have another first reading of bills here. It is the Bill 50, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022 that would also be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Pursuant to Rule 8.2(3), Bill 50, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022 has been presented, deemed read for the first time, and is ready for second reading.

First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. One second. Minister responsible for Finance.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 49:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2021-2022,
CARRIED

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm hoping very much that I have the right bill in front of me.

I am seeking to move, seconded by the honourable Member from Range Lake, that Bill 49, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022 be read for the second time.

This bill would make supplementary appropriations for the infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for 2021-2022 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion? No, that is bill -- to the principle of the bill? Sorry, to the principle of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

Sorry about that, colleagues. All our votes have got to be recorded -- oh, when the clerk calls on you, please state whether you are against or abstain or in favour of the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour?

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Yellowknife South, please indicate how you wish to vote.

The Member has indicated in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she votes in favour of the bill -- second reading of the bill.

The Member for Kam Lake. She wishes to vote in favour of the bill -- of second reading of the bill.

The Honourable Member for Range Lake. The Member has indicated she votes in favour of second reading of the bill.

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

HON. JULIE GREEN: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Member has indicated she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated he votes in favour of the bill. The Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member indicates he votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated he votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated he votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Sahtu.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: In favour. Thank you.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has voted she indicates that she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The honourable Member for Hay River North.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated he votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The honourable Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Against.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated he votes against the bill -- second reading of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The results of the recorded vote, 14 in favour, one opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Okay. Second reading of bills. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment

BILL 47:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT
STANDARDS ACT, NO. 2,
CARRIED

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 47, An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act, No. 2, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Employment Standards Act to create a new statutory holiday which will fall on September 30th each year to be known as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This bill also includes consequential amendments to the Interpretation Act and the public service holidays order made under the Public Service Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Remember, pursuant to Rule 10.3(1), a recorded vote is required. The clerk shall call on each Member by riding name to cast their vote, starting with the mover; those participating remotely and those participating in a Chamber in order of their seats. When the clerk calls on you, please state whether you are against or abstain or in favour for second reading.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member for Hay River North.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Yellowknife South.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Hay River -- my apologies, the Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member indicates she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member indicates he votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Range Lake.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member vote -- indicates she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

HON. JULIE GREEN: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member indicates she votes in favour of second reading of the bill. The Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Sahtu.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer):

MR. SPEAKER: Results of the recorded vote: 15 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Minister responsible for Finance

BILL 50:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 3, 2021-
2022,
CARRIED

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try this one again, Mr. Speaker.

This is -- I am moving, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 50, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Oh, Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be voting against this Supplementary Estimate (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022.

Mr. Speaker, for our government to not continue supporting small airlines during an extremely volatile financial situation is not okay. During the pandemic, we provided financial aid to businesses to help them stay afloat and not go out of business. But for many of these businesses, they are not out of the woods yet. Many of them are still struggling to get back on their feet to try and level out again. Most businesses have gone further and further into debt during this pandemic so it will be a while

before they are in the black in again with their financials. Our government must continue helping businesses until they are financially fit to continue doing so on their own.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Smith, like many communities in the Northwest Territories, only has one airline operating full time in our regions. My community depends heavily on the existence of our airline for many reasons. The business I am talking about is locally-owned where the owners are actually living in the community. In addition, this airline has to pay for several financial commitments that are mandated by Transport Canada be done on their planes. Those costs all add up to in excess of \$500,000 US.

For airline businesses, the level of business they get is different every month and every season. Some months are good. Some months are bad. So to say that overall they make too much money to qualify for financial aid is not all right. Our government is not looking at the big picture when it comes to financial aid for businesses.

To only look at one small financial snapshot during a particular timeframe is not the right way to be approaching this. No business has made too much money during this pandemic so to state that is patently false.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I cannot support the supplementary appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thebacha. To the principle of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Members, pursuant to Rule 10.3(1), a recorded vote is required. The clerk shall call on each Member by riding name to cast their vote, starting with the mover; those participating remotely and those participating in the Chamber in the order of their seats. When the clerk calls on you, please state whether you are for, against, or abstaining for the second reading.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: In favour

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has voted in favour. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has voted in favour. The Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has voted in favour. The Member for Range Lake.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member has voted in favour. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

HON. JULIE GREEN: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member has voted in favour. The Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Opposed.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. EDJERICON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Sahtu.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Hay River North.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Against.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has voted opposed to second reading of the bill. The Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has voted in favour of second reading of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The results of the recorded vote: 13 in favour; two opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 50 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Bill 23; Bill 29; Minister's Statement 202-19(2); Tabled Document 561-19(2); Tabled Document 567-19(2); with Member for Hay River South in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 567-19(2) and Minister's Statement 202-19(2) concurrently at the same time. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): I call committee back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Minister's Statement 202-19(2), and Tabled Document 567-19(2): Annual Status Report - 2019-2023 Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Does the Premier have any opening remarks?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as we pass the mid point for the 19th Legislative Assembly, it's important to take stock of where we are as a government and the progress we're making in fulfilling the commitments we made to advance the 22 shared priorities that we, as the 19th Legislative Assembly, developed at the beginning of this Assembly.

I'm proud of the collaboration that we as an Assembly demonstrated in creating these 22 shared priorities, and I'm grateful for the insight and feedback that Regular Members provided Cabinet on the items and specific actions found in the mandate.

Collaboration is not always easy. It requires a give and take, honest and open communication, and respect for the other side's opinion, even if we don't always agree. It also takes time. But we know that in consensus government, collaboration is crucial, and I believe that these 22 priorities and the action items we're going to speak about today are better as a result of it.

Just over two years ago, we as Cabinet, took these priorities and got to work. And despite the obvious challenges we faced since March 2020, I'm proud of what we accomplished to date.

As we begin this mid term review, I'm happy to report that we're well on track to achieve the majority of our commitments.

Of the 149 actions that we as a government identified in the mandate, 23.5 percent have been fulfilled; 65 percent are in progress; 9 percent are in planning; and 2 percent have been delayed; and one commitment has been discontinued.

Achieving these commitments helps advance the priorities of this Assembly and supports our economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This progress is also a testament to the hard work and dedication of public service servants in a very dynamic and challenging environment and the shared commitment of all Members of this Assembly to work together to advance the priorities we identified in 2019.

Over the next two years, I look forward to continued partnership with the Regular Members in order to fulfill the commitments we made at the beginning of this Assembly. We, as Cabinet, welcome the opportunity to answer any questions and comment you may have to offer as we begin the mid term review. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Madam Premier. We agreed to begin with general comments. Does the Premier wish to bring witnesses into the House?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'd like to bring in Martin Goldney, the deputy minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs and secretary to Cabinet.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Would the Minister please introduce her witness.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The one witness I have is Mr. Martin Goldney, the secretary for Cabinet and also the deputy minister for Executive and Indigenous Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): I will now open the floor for general comments on the Minister's statement and tabled document. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess just I'd like to reflect back on how we got here. We all -- we got elected, and we came together in a room and created our priority document. And I think since that time, there's been a lot of discussion about probably having less priorities. And I guess I will just frame that as a comment for future Assemblies, that if you make everything a priority then, you know, nothing is a priority.

But then that priority document was given to Cabinet and different than the last Assembly, this is truly a Cabinet's mandate. There was lots of collaboration with Regular Members, and it's a very -- you know, it's probably the best mandate the GNWT's ever seen in form and substance. It has clear and measurable targets. It improves upon a number of previous mandates which had far too much in them, and there was not clear control of who actually was to get those things done.

And we all know that, you know, you can -- you can only plan as much as possible but we've dealt with floods and COVID, and all around I just want to start by thanking this Cabinet for this work. This has not been an easy time. We actually don't have a single Cabinet Minister other than our Premier who's ever held a portfolio. The majority of MLAs in this House have never been MLAs. It's been a steep learning curve for all of us. And I do believe that -- I wasn't in the last Assembly but from all I've heard, this is a truly collaborative government. I would like to -- you know, perhaps I don't say nice things enough in this House but our Premier has been truly a Premier in consensus, I believe both in her own Cabinet and on this side working with Members. It's clear she has directed her Ministers to work with Members. I don't feel there's a single Cabinet Minister who is not willing to hear my concerns. I believe they're all committed to working with us. I believe our Premier is committed to working with us. And I believe she has, you know, given the proper amount of latitude to Ministers to run their departments and the proper direction to, you know, have them work with MLAs.

I also want to thank our Premier for -- it's not an easy job. It's a job of tough pills to swallow, and no one's giving you a glass of water. You know, day

one they tell you how broke you are, and then, you know, the Regular MLAs say why aren't you doing anything, and the Indigenous governments say why aren't you doing anything, and then the union tells you why are you doing this, and then the Chamber of Commerce says why are you doing that. And pile on COVID, it's a job that is no shortage of criticism, but I believe we, as an Assembly and our Premier and Cabinet, and all of our public servants, have got through COVID with a model response, and it's something we should all be proud of.

I would also just like to point out that there's regular reporting on this mandate. Committees have been apprised of each step along the way. I actually expect this mid term review to be a quick exercise and not too onerous because we truly have been informed for each priority along the way, and we are very well briefed on how those priorities are going. So I think we have taken the right steps of, you know, publicly reporting on the mandate. This was also the first government where the Premier published mandate letters. That was another good step. So the fact that we are well aware of where we are and met many mandate items does not make the mid term review the big fight it was in the last Assembly.

Additionally, I think we decided not to have the kind of fake confidence votes that happened in the last mid term review. That was a great step. I can tell you right now if we had a bunch of fake confidence votes, I would not vote nonconfidence for any of these Ministers. I would keep them all exactly where they are, and including our Premier. And I thank them for that. So I don't think we need to do that exercise, and I don't suggest any other Assembly ever do that ridiculousness with the mid term review.

So with those kind comments, I'm sure I will have many more critical ones as we go through this. But I want to point out, you know, a lot of the work we have done has happened outside of the mandate. A lot of the great work we're doing, you know, with the universal daycare was -- progressed much faster than we ever could have imagined due to the federal government. I expect many more big federal budget announcements to come forward next week, and we're going to see even more progress on many of our priorities.

And I want to point out that, you know, this mandate is probably about the right size for the GNWT. There is always an effort to do more, to bring forward more legislation, to make more policies, but there's very limited bandwidth in policy shops in the GNWT and you can pile on COVID, and you can pile on the never ending kind of need to engage everyone, and it becomes hard to do things fairly.

I guess my last kind of comment, though, is that, you know, we all have to kind of define what we want consensus to look like in the next 18 months. You know, everyone kind of has a different definition of consensus. I think we've been operating on a model that probably involves a bit too much consensus, and I think there's probably a bit of a hesitancy to, you know, bring forward things that are going to be ten, eight votes, or very close votes, and there's a bit of a hesitancy to push things through. But there's a mandate here. There's probably some decisions that will have to be pushed through and may make some people unhappy and, you know, this is our Cabinet that we elected as Members and, you know, I just encourage them that, you know, sometimes you got to make unpopular choices and sometimes you don't have to engage the Regular MLAs on every little thing and you just got to get it done. So, you know, there -- we don't always need more talking, more reviews, or more compromise and middle ground. We got 18 months left. Let's make sure we get everything done that we said we were going to do. And with that, I would just like to thank the Premier and my Cabinet colleagues for their work to date. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Chair, what can I say? Thank you. Thank you, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Any further questions? Member?

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you. While I don't agree with a lot of my colleague's statements there about the leadership and direction of this Cabinet, I will say that I do agree with the fact that the number of priorities was unreasonable and unable to attain. So in retrospect, had I had a chance to do it over again, I would very much not have the number of priorities that I see here, as well too being aware of how things progressed in the first ten months of this Assembly, I'm well aware of how the mandate was developed in such that a lot of this work was already going on. So to then write out a mandate so that you can just get checklists and checkmarks next to things that were already happening, I don't see as being something to really celebrate a lot of. The creation of other money being spent on things that -- the creation of a greater public service, I don't agree with that either. And I'm really disappointed in the lack of progress around the regional economic plans and getting the money into small communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The only thing I can say is that the previous Member is right, and this Member is right, the number of priorities was too much, and I did say that when we began this Assembly. And I'm hoping that at the next Assembly, and I know that we're only at the mid term point, but I hope that Members that run again, that decide to run again that get back in again, will remember that because 100 percent agree that when you have too many priorities, nothing is a priority, and it would have been way better if we would have had six or less. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess I wanted to -- I have the benefit of having sat through the last Assembly, and I actually served on the transition matters committee that provided its advice to this Assembly and one of the specific pieces of advice was to have fewer priorities, and that wasn't followed. I was part of the process that developed the priorities. I urged my colleagues to have fewer priorities but my views didn't prevail, and I still think we have too many. I think some of them conflict with each other, and some of them are -- it just raised unrealistic expectations for our residents and are just simply not even possible. I'll go on record as saying that trying to promote three big infrastructure projects at the same time is just not something that's even achievable financially, so. But I do believe that, you know, this Cabinet is prepared to actually work with Regular MLAs. That's not something I saw in the last Assembly so I want to give my Cabinet colleagues credit for that, that they are willing to sit down and work with us as Regular MLAs. Even if sometimes I disagree with the outcome, at least they're willing to sit down and talk with us and I think that's a huge improvement over the last Assembly where Cabinet just went to look for their three friends and did whatever it wanted. So that has been a big improvement.

I guess if -- I do want to address my colleague from Yellowknife North about what he characterized as "fake votes." These were not fake votes. We tried to work very hard to come up with a nonthreatening way to evaluate the performance of Ministers and, you know, I was part of the rules and procedures committee. I chaired it when we came up with that process. Like, we put a lot of time and effort into that. At the end of the day, though, Cabinet didn't respect the process in my view, and that's why we ended up with a process that didn't really work. So they were not fake votes. They were -- it was an attempt to try to find some compromise and some way of holding Ministers accountable. Unfortunately, it didn't work.

With this review, though, I don't feel terribly well prepared. It's been a long sitting. I have not done my homework. I'm going to confess that right now, but -- and I don't think that we've spent enough time to actually evaluate what's in this document as Regular MLAs.

I will give my Cabinet colleagues some credit for taking what was a rather broad wish list and trying to put in place some measurable targets in there I think with varying degrees of success. I would have appreciated more measurables around some of the specific priorities. But I think it's better than the last mandate that came forward from the previous Assembly but -- or Cabinet, I should say, but I think it still could use a lot more work.

Yeah, I think COVID has really taken a lot out of us all in terms of the focus that we had as a government at the beginning, our ability to do work even together as this -- as an Assembly, as MLAs, as Cabinet, as Regular MLAs. And I -- you know, I think we do need -- owe it to the public to review that very carefully. I expect that there's going to be another transition matters committee established towards the end of this Assembly, and I'd be willing to serve and volunteer to serve on that again. And hopefully the next Assembly will listen a little more carefully. I don't know.

But I have lots of other comments, Mr. Chair, that I will make as we work our way through the document. But I wanted to correct, I think, some of the things that I think I heard said, but also give this Cabinet some credit for their ability and willingness to at least work with Regular MLAs compared to the last one. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was on the last Cabinet so I do like to think that we weren't all that bad in the last Assembly. At least not all of us, anyway. But we are trying as a new Assembly. We've been really adamant about trying to work with Members. You know, pick your battles has always been a philosophy as I've said, so.

As for the Member saying that he hasn't done his homework and, you know, not really ready for this is that I can personally say that I think that the Member that was speaking was one of the hardest-working Members that I knew in the last Assembly. So I have no doubt that -- that -- you know, that this is still a priority for him. And this is one chance to review the mid term review. But it's not only the chance. We'll be reviewing these priorities for the next two years coming forward. So just stating that this is not the only time to ask questions on these priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier. Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Martselos.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I too want to just express my appreciation I guess in the working relationship that I developed with Cabinet, and especially the Premier and the Minister of Health, and everyone. There has been times -- there will be times when we don't agree but we have to leave that at the door. And I think that the working relationship that I established with Cabinet is a good one. And some of the Ministers are more open than others, and that's always the case anyways in any political democracy.

I really would stress, though, that we are a consensus government, and many times I feel that consensus is not working because I feel that a lot of the decisions are made at your level and we either take it or leave it kind of thing. And I'm just going to be very open about that because, you know, in the last few days here, I haven't been very happy about a couple things, and hopefully we'd be able to work through those and come out with a positive response because I feel that, you know, many times people see things through a very narrow tunnel instead of looking at the whole picture. And the whole picture shows something different many times. And with the experience that I bring to this floor, with all the business experience and leadership experience, it's not always everything that has to fit in that little box. And -- you know, and I've been able to work through most of my issues, and hopefully -- I only have two small issues, and if I'm able to work through those two small issues I will be very happy about that.

But overall the mandate is being met and like I said, I've had excellent working relationships with the majority of Cabinet, and I just want to thank you for that because I think Cabinet, you can go down the hall very easily and talk to anyone, and I don't know if that happened in the past, whether you agree with them or not, but it's okay. And with that, I want to thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Thank you, Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, thank you for the kind comments from the Member. I think -- the one thing I pick up about this Assembly that I never really felt so much, maybe because of the position I'm in, but the different strengths that we all bring as Members. You're absolutely right that we might not agree on everything. But every single person here has immense background and immense knowledge in whatever fields they have, and it's by working together that we actually make better decisions. So what I took, and I'll try to keep that with me all the time, is think outside the box. The Member's right,

that sometimes we get kind of stuck in the ways, the comfortable ways, and we need to challenge ourselves.

So Ministers, think outside the box. Challenge yourselves. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier. Ms. Martselos.

MS. MARTSELOS: I have no other comment at this moment, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Sorry, I've got feedback from my earphones.

So I just wanted to start off by saying thank you to my colleagues for the opportunity to speak to this, and I know that some of what I have to say will be somewhat repetitive a little bit. But I think it's important for residents for the Northwest Territories to hear, and I think one of the most important pieces of that is that piece on the number of priorities. And this was something that we talked about a bit in the very beginning of our time together, was the number of priorities that were appropriate for an Assembly. And I can't stress enough the importance of taking and kind of demanding that extra time upfront in order to really question how many priorities are appropriate. And one of the numbers that we kind of kept talking about that I remember in our brief conversations at the beginning were about that number to be about five to eight priorities would have been ideal, and that seems to be a number that has come up throughout the Assembly as the less the better.

And another conversation that we have had a lot in different kind of social circles and our time where we can really connect kind of out of formal meetings and out of session is the conversation around kind of legacy of an Assembly.

And so the other thing I guess that I'd like to challenge the next Assembly to do is to have a conversation upfront together about what each Member would like to see as their legacy together and then try building their priorities around that, because then you're deciding upfront what you're leaving behind for the people of the Northwest Territories. And I think that's so important, that key kind of message and piece about what you're really leaving behind. So I just wanted to reiterate that piece.

And then I also wanted to acknowledge both the hard work of public servants but then also our private sector. I think that this has been a very unique Assembly in that we have worked through COVID, but it's not just the Assembly; it is -- well,

the entire world that has really kind of persevered through COVID and through change and trying to figure out what this all looks like and still move forward through that. And I think that the residents of the Northwest Territories all together need a huge kudos to that, including our colleagues on the other side of the House. I know that there were times where I myself stated that the excuse of COVID was no longer an excuse we were willing to hear. And that being said, it was still very much part of the lives of public servants and of Cabinet Ministers, and so I want to acknowledge the hard work that they did in spite of that and under immense pressure from this side of the House.

I look forward to this conversation, this public conversation about our priorities and what the next 18 months look like and note that it's not the end of this. I know that we discuss our priorities on a weekly basis with Cabinet, especially when we're in session. There's always items that relate directly or indirectly to our priorities.

And I also wanted to acknowledge what the Premier just said about thinking outside the box. And I think one of the important things that comes up a lot that I hear when listening to my colleagues or myself speak with Ministers on the other side of the House is quite often people will bring forward a challenge that they have with constituents. And often we hear a response of this is what the government is doing, or this is the process we've created. And sometimes, not all the time, sometimes some Ministers are very good to sit and kind of work through, you know, where's the gap or where's the break in communication. And I think that that think-outside-the-box piece is really important, especially as MLA Martselos referred to as that kind of tunnelled vision versus the whole picture and being able to say okay, this MLA or this constituent has brought forward a challenge and how does the current service or current process not working for this person is so important, and I think that some of our big challenges can be solved just by trying to, like the Premier says, think outside the box. So thank you very much, and I look forward to this conversation with our colleagues today, I know for the next 18 months. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Absolutely, again, the priorities -- number of priorities, can't stress enough, bring them down. Although I do have to say that although we've had 22 priorities and we've had COVID, you know, we're on the way at 65 percent are in progress; 23 percent are done. So, you know, we're still working on them and I'm quite impressed with this -- the public servants, as you state, because of that.

I think it's also important -- I like the idea of a legacy for the Assembly. You know, I think about the legacy when I first began and people were asking me what legacy do you want to leave. And more than a legacy.

I know Minister Green in the last Assembly, we were really big on women in politics. We achieved that in this Assembly. And so, you know, I mean, that's one legacy that I'm really proud of with my colleague and all of us here. But that wasn't enough. And I was debating what it would be. And then COVID hit, and my whole focus became one, keeping people safe, if I was to say what legacy it was at the beginning. And maybe even now with what's going on in Ukraine, it's keeping people safe was a priority for me.

The other thing is, you know, I did ask every time I see an ex-MLA or an ex-Premier, mostly the Cabinet Minister, I tend to ask them what can you teach me. And I've gotten some valuable advice from that. But I think I'm going to change my tone because I think it's, like, I'm going to start asking them what would you have done differently might be a better question for them. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier. Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: No further comments, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Any other questions? MLA for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am -- actually for me to come in mid term -- midway through the -- this term for the 19th Assembly is -- has been interesting so far for me as MLA for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh riding. And you know, I was -- had a chance to review some of these documents of the mandate that was put together in 2019 to 2023, and my immediate thoughts were they're very ambitious, in particular, you know, when you talk about the United Nation Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People; you know, how we're going to get there and, you know -- and I'd still like to see that through and the work is continuing on that area.

So I hit the road running, and I'm trying to catch up and understand, you know, what's been happening here and -- but you got to keep in mind too as well that, you know, as a former chief, band councillor, chairman for the impact review board, I did a lot of stuff here in the North, and I do understand how government works. And we talk about consensus government and how, you know, we're supposed to work together in trying to look for common ground

and to build relationships. And at the end of the day, you know, we're trying to be accountable and transparent to our constituents in our -- here in the Northwest Territories.

You know, but when I think back about how I was involved in the communities as a tradesman and as a housing manager, and how I worked in government and later on became involved in construction management and that kind of thing, so I had a chance to sit on the national level and different levels and for DFN housing committees and etcetera, and housing's still a pretty passionate thing for us here in the Northwest Territories, and it's part of your mandate. And you know, your -- principles here, they're very important principles. And the thing is that how do we get there? And I know it's going to be talked about as well as the mandate of the Housing Corporation, how do we better bridge the gaps with Indigenous governments here in the Northwest Territories if in fact that it's been born in 1972? You know, here we are today, and we're still trying to figure out how we're going to resolve this issue of housing. And it's a huge undertaking.

But again, I said right from the beginning that I want to work with the Minister and the Premiers and the MLAs and colleagues to really trying to solve some of the issues in our community constituency, and I had no involvement in this document, but I would say that, you know -- you know, the work that was done by the 19 MLAs and the -- it's important document here. And for me is that I wanted to see how we can continue to improve the lives of our -- the people here in the Northwest Territories. And, you know, whether it be looking at fuel reduction of fuel, power subsidy.

Like in the Yukon, there's so many things that we could -- could take a look at to improve the lives of the people in our communities. And as a former chief, you know, it makes it really tough because I was on the other side. I seen the business side as the chairman for the impact review board. Now I'm here, and I -- this document that was put in front of me here is -- it's a big one that was put together by everybody here, and it's a very important document. And my question is how do we get there?

And I don't want to see, you know, some of the big ticket items fall off the table. You know, the biggest one I would say I'm in support of is the implementation of the United Nation Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, you know. The other one is settling the implement of treaty lands and resources and settle government agreements. Those are big ticket items. But, you know, for me is that we also need a strong economy here in the Northwest Territories. We need to -- it's -- I know the two years that's been happening here already is -- you know, we hit the wall with, you know, this

COVID, and before COVID, and life after COVID. You know, we got to work together I guess and see how we're going to address all of these issues.

You know, and -- so I'm looking forward to move through this document and really look -- maybe help provide some input to the Premier and Cabinet, and continue to look for ways to improve the lives of our people in our communities, in particular housing is still the number 1 issue. We have to look at new ways as to how we could work with aboriginal and Indigenous governments, you know, through contribution agreements, maybe work with Ottawa so that they could continue to get money back into the communities.

At the end of the day, you know, we still need work. People are looking for jobs. Mining industry is not going to always going to be there. Oil and gas is down. So, I hear that almost every day. You know, people who need jobs, you know, so.

Anyway, so I just want to say to the Premier and the Cabinet and MLAs here, it's been a privilege and an honour to at least been here for the last month, and we're hitting the road running, and I'm trying to -- there's so many issues that I could probably talk about but this one here, I'm hoping that we go through this document and I will continue to provide input. So I just want to say that to Mr. Speaker and to the Premier and the Cabinet and my colleagues. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You're right, you did come in halfway through and you hit the road running. Probably the not best; no time to stumble, but. Could be on Cabinet; that's what we always say - hit the road running and you keep running.

I think housing is a priority for this government on both sides of the House. It's why I came. I think you've learnt today I've spent 20 years of my life before politics working with low income family, specifically running homeless shelters. My -- that's why I came. And that's where I'm going when I'm finished, back to that work. So, and I always -- one thing I'd like to say is I always ask people for advice whenever. I don't have all the answers. I'm old enough to know that I don't know everything, and that's a strength in itself. So if you don't have my number, get my number from me. Call me any time you want, whether it's to complain about something, less of that, but if you have an answer or a solution, give me a call. I'm always willing -- Members call me at all times, day and night.

And one advice I'll give you, though, if you hit the road running, it's true. I think you're old enough that

you probably were -- back in the day, you probably did some of that bumper riding on the ice road to Dettah. I used to do that. It's illegal now. Don't do that, anybody out there. But if you see a bus running, don't grab that bumper because that bus usually isn't very good in politics. But other than that, that's my advice. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Edjericon.

MR. EDJERICON: That's it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Any further questions?

Seeing no further general comments, does the committee agree to review Tabled Document 567-19(2): Annual Status Report - 2019-2023 Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, February 2021 - January 2022, by priority?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Committee, we will begin at pages 21 to 22: Increase the number of affordable homes and reduce core housing need. Questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Although it's not one of the specific action items in here, we did get the Minister and the deputy minister to agree to prepare a plan to get our housing out of core need, and I had understood that that plan was going to be available before March 31st so I guess they got three days to go. But I'm just wondering if I can get an update as to the status of that work. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Chair, that would go to the Minister of Housing.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Minister.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just received that document today, and I'm just taking a look at it right now, and it's up -- we're reviewing it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can I look over the Minister's shoulder while she's looking at it? Okay, all right, great. So I expect that we're going to get it in the next two or three days. That would be great.

And the reason why I keep raising this is when my colleagues from Cabinet go to Ottawa and talk

about our housing needs, it's very easy to identify what the needs are. The more difficult part of the conversation is translating that into a plan and the costs associated with getting our housing out of core need. So that's why I keep harping on this. I harped on it in the last Assembly. So here I am five, six years later asking the same questions. If you don't have that kind of document ready, you don't really have any case to make with Ottawa in terms of our needs in a financial sense.

I know that we also need partnerships and, you know, skilled people but if you don't have a way of starting to put, you know, a financial cost on any of that, we're not going to get anywhere. So I guess I would also ask, you know, about this partnership arrangement.

Indigenous governments are increasingly getting money directly from Ottawa, and I think that's partly because we just can't do the job as a government, and/or that the Indigenous governments don't really trust GNWT to do it for them or with them anymore. So they're going directly to Ottawa to get the money.

So how are we going to deal with this as a government, not just as a government but as the Northwest Territories, so that, okay, if Indigenous governments are getting some direct funding themselves, what are they using it for and how do we know about that so that GNWT can better direct the money that it has available to it to meet other sorts of needs? So it seems like we need to have some better coordination, information sharing at the Northwest Territories level. And I don't really see anything in this particular area, and I think this is something that's quickly evolving and is likely to change even more in the next couple of weeks, but how do we start to build better trust and information sharing so that there's like a whole-of-territories approach to improving housing? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Chair, I'll take this one. The Indigenous governments are getting more money from Ottawa, and the reason they're doing that I'm hoping is not just because that they don't trust us and we're doing a horrible job, I think it's because as a Cabinet we've been lobbying for the Indigenous governments to get money from Ottawa.

In the last Cabinet, which I was a part of, the philosophy was give us all the money because we know best and then we will decide where the money goes. That didn't work well for that Cabinet in honesty. Like I said, I was part of that, and I did see one Indigenous government get money and no other one. And so I learned from -- I try to learn

from my mistakes as well as learning from our successes, and I learned that that was a bad strategy for the Cabinet. And so this Cabinet, from the very beginning, I've been saying to Ottawa and to the Indigenous governments, we are not your enemies; we are not a Cabinet that says give us all the money. We will stand beside the Indigenous governments. I've told Trudeau; I've told Carolyn Bennett that; I've told all the ministers that. They were shocked at the beginning and now they take it as normal. I told the Indigenous governments and I had to gain their trust, and it took some time, but I listened to them and I've gone to Ottawa with their asks and asked for their asks, not only for our asks but for what they need as well. So I think that we're doing a great job of working together with the federal government and with the Indigenous governments.

One of the things that I'm most proud about in this government, one of them, is the Council of Leaders table that we took part in. So we formed the Council of Leaders table. Every single Indigenous government is on it.

And one of the first priorities that we're doing, the Council of Leaders and Minister Chinna -- kudos to Minister Chinna -- is that we've agreed that there is a working group that is formed from that table that will be looking at every single one of the housing policies. How more working in collaboration can you get than actually sitting at a table with all of the Indigenous governments and looking at all of the policies for housing?

And I'm hoping, Mr. Chair, that that will just keep going. Not only ending with housing but every program because that is part of United Nations declaration, is doing that work. And it's going to take time but we're committed to doing it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Well, that's good to hear about the work at the Council of Leaders with the working group on housing, and they're going to look at policies. But I guess I'm hoping that they're going to look at more than just policies, that they're actually going to be sharing information, as our government can and should as well, about what the housing needs are in terms of our stock and the programs and so on that we have in place.

Look, I don't really care who improves the housing. The question is getting the work done. And if partnerships are part of the answer, just go and do it, but. So I guess I want to get some assurance from the Premier that this working group is more than just looking at policies; this is about

information sharing, coordination, and improving housing for everybody. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Chair, to begin with, we started as just a housing, looking at the policies. But Minister Chinna can expand on what she's doing and what she plans to do, if you can pass it to Minister Chinna, Mr. Chair, through you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Minister of Housing.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And, you know, since I've gotten the portfolio, I'm, you know, absolutely grateful that, you know, to be sitting in this seat as well too and really highlighting and looking at what is needed at the ground level. Policies is just -- it's just a fraction of what needs to be done.

We need to improve the relationships. We need to improve the programs that we absolutely deliver at the ground level. Our relationships with the Indigenous groups is key, and it is priority. And looking at -- I just want to elaborate on those partnerships as well too, where we're able to -- for an example, we looked at furnace repair. We did that in one of the communities where we funded the community to go ahead and establish and provide that service. We looked at building decks. We looked at siding. We looked at pilings as well too. So working through those initiative -- those projects.

Not only that, the other one is apprenticeships and working through that as well too and trying to highlight the opportunity with our 90-unit delivery coming through the Northwest Territories and really enhancing and connecting with the communities. And as we move forward, we are going to see a lot of improvement in a lot of -- a lot of housing moving in a really different direction and really putting the Northwest Territories first and also looking at the funding.

I did just finish a presentation to the standing committee with the House of Commons last week as well too, which turned out to be very successful and was very well received as well.

We do also have a federal working table where I wanted to work with the federal government and look at all of the funding pots that are out there because there's not just specifically one; there's several of them. And I wanted those pots to be available to the people of the territories. But in response to that, very grateful that we did end up getting the \$5 million over three years to support those federal applications.

I don't want to take up too much time but I'm, you know, quite passionate about it as well. All of our housing designs and energy efficiency designs as well, and that's all available to all of the Indigenous groups as well too. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: No, that's -- thanks, Mr. Chair. That's all I've got on this one. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Martselos.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just going to make a couple comments. I just -- one of the comments that my -- one of my colleagues said about Indigenous governments.

Indigenous governments always facilitate that they always want to have control of the funds for housing. It goes back, like, 17 years now, and every time there was allocations of \$59 million to the federal -- to the territorial government, it was just another roadblock for them to actually do -- to actually control the funds and do the work. So saying that -- because I know that's the way it was every time we met as a group.

I also want to just make a statement on -- policy is not always the correct way of looking at the delivery of services. Once again, one size doesn't fit all. There are individual needs out there that have to be addressed. And many times as ordinary MLAs, we get calls of people who are couch surfing, people whose names have been on for four years on lists and have never been called. There's always these other issues that are very dear to all of us in this House, including the Cabinet Members, I'm sure.

And so you get into the homelessness issue and, you know, homelessness you said was, Madam Premier, one of your -- one of the things that you advocated on before your time as an MLA. And this government has addressed a lot of those concerns within the last budget with -- in this past budget with -- this budget that we're doing I should say with Hay River and Fort Simpson. And coming from a large community, a regional community, and all small communities, we should all be addressing homelessness in -- in our -- in a way that is innovative and -- so that we can all succeed. And I just feel that, you know, sometimes we have -- we have -- we have mini roadblocks just by expressing on some of the things we want to do.

And in consensus government, we should be able to sit down and work through those roadblocks but when you just get a -- no commitment and just oh, you're going to go back to the federal government, well, by that time there will be double the amount of

homelessness in the community, and I don't agree with that.

And you know, I've been advocating on behalf of a group on homelessness, and this group has carried the homelessness -- majority of the funds have been coming from this one group, and now they have a solution, and they have an innovative solution, and I'd just like to know how you feel, Madam Premier, about the whole issue of homelessness and the whole issue of policy that the delivery of services doesn't always one size fits all. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the MLA knows me well and she's just trying to testing me, but she's right. One size doesn't fit all. I know that we've -- you know, and I come from the NGO world. I'm a social worker by degree, and people always said one stop shopping and I've always been the one that says no, because what happens when that one person can't go in that building; they have nowhere else to shop. So, you know, I always say that you need to have flexibility in programs.

The reason I say that it's really important and it's a huge milestone that the Council of Leaders is actually doing a working group to look at the policies of the Housing Corporation is because the Housing Corporation doesn't have any legislation. All they have is policies. So being able to get them into the policies is like looking at their whole -- the whole way they operate. It's a huge milestone in my opinion. If they had legislation, it might be different. I might be saying move into that direction. But they don't.

So I think that you'll find -- I'm very hopeful that as they go forward, that -- I know all the Indigenous governments know one size doesn't fit all, and I know that they will bring flexibility -- I trust, in the process that they will bring flexibility within the policy.

So give us a chance. I know that we're just beginning that work. Let's see what happens. We're at mid term. This is new work. It's just, I think, in the last six months or so we put this on the table, and Minister Chinna's just getting her head around it. And I am hopeful that things will come, positive things will come from this. And I am hopeful that -- I also agree that homelessness is an issue that needs to be addressed, and if we can't address it all -- in fact, we can't address it all. We don't have enough money in the NWT to address it all from the GNWT. And we don't have all the answers. But by working together with the Indigenous governments, as you say that was what they wanted in the

beginning, and us being open enough to being able to take that jump and working with them, I think we'll have better answers and better housing solutions for people. And my wish is that every single community in the NWT will have some kind of accommodations for homeless people because that's where I come from, and that's where my heart is. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Martselos.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The other thing I wanted to address is the homeownership program.

The homeownership program and also the -- we -- they're always -- there's always these thresholds that seem to be a barrier to ownership. So if you're at the very lower end of the scale, you can get ownership of -- because I know a couple, a young couple in Fort Smith who just started jobs and just started a new family, and they were told that they were over the threshold. And, you know, they're just starting out. They don't -- they bought a car and they wanted to buy the house they were in. And everything's with a threshold in this department. You have to think of all the inflation issues, all the other issues that are pending in our -- today's world, you know, with cost of food, cost of living, cost of fuel, cost of gas. All those things come into play. And I think that we have to be more innovative in the way we think with regards to these thresholds because, you know, every one of us, including all 19 of us, know that this is a -- the major problem with homeownership, there's always -- you know, and you want to give it to the people that are going to actually pay for the homeownership program that -- you know, and -- you have to be able to minimize those barriers, and I just wonder how we're going to be able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Chair, if you can divert that to the Minister of Housing, Minister --

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Minister Chinna.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And, you know, thank you to the Member for these questions because it's exactly where I'm sitting with the corporation, is looking at all those in flair -- rising costs, looking at all of those, and because I come from a smaller community. You know, Fort Good Hope in my riding was the most expensive community to be living in. We're looking at -- I think the last was \$2.78 per litre for gas. And looking at the limited amount of time to get your

supplies on the winter road just, you know, according to Minister Archie, the last post that we're going to be closing down in 72 hours. And I -- I hear you when I'm looking at -- looking at the housing needs in the North and looking at what needs to come with it.

Looking at those thresholds is something that I'm bringing back to the department because if you're making a hundred thousand dollars in Nunavut and you're paying, you know, \$50 for a package of steak, you know, and if you're living in a home in Colville Lake and your fuel is \$1,400 in four weeks, those are -- those are costs that I'm absolutely looking at. And I want to make those changes within this government. I need to look at those policies, and having the Council of Leaders at that same working table and getting that information right from the ground level, it really fuels and emphasizes the need for change in the Northwest Territories and how the Housing Corporation is actually doing business.

And I also just wanted to highlight, the other thing too is we have 2600 units, 45,000 people. I have an issue with that. You know, and when I had met the last -- and Nunavut had made -- had made some comments, and they've got, according to them, 10,000 units. And I thought, there's -- I asked my department to go back to making sure, is that number correct, because we only have 2600.

So it really fuels that conversation with the federal government as well too to -- to really look at those numbers, and looking at the operation and maintenance as well too for those units. But also I want to see more homeownership throughout the territory. I was, you know, born and raised in the Northwest Territories. I was around when they had the HAP units. Very successful program. And I would like to look at that and look at the opportunities. But with that, community driven, where we are able to provide that funding to the communities, support them with the -- the stipend based funding that they did receive. But it's up to them if they want to invite us to the table, and if they want to see what it is that we have to offer to them. But I'm more than open to be meeting with them. Council of Leaders is the first place to start. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Martselos. Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. My first question for the Minister -- or sorry, for the Premier is in regards to the very first status on the first piece, which is working with -- including federal and Indigenous governments to increase funding for housing programs that currently that reads as fulfilled, and given that accessing -- or working with people or different partners to access

funding is an ongoing and kind of a constant within the housing portfolio, I'm wondering if the Premier is willing to change that to ongoing and maintain that as ongoing for the life of this Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd just like clarification. Exactly what is the Member wanting to get changed out of this -- how we do it? I want to make sure that I'm clear with that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, currently I'm in the line item of work with partners including the federal/Indigenous governments to increase funding for housing programs. It is marked as fulfilled.

Given that this is something that the Housing portfolio is constantly working on and that we don't want to lose sight of, I'm wondering if the Premier will commit to changing the status of that to ongoing so that we are consistently looking for additional funding opportunities. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you for the clarification. I thought she was looking at a different one but this is fine.

What I do recommend -- I'm not going to change all of these mandates. That's not going to happen. But what I will do with the status is put fulfilled and ongoing, if the Member's okay with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I'll accept fulfilled and ongoing on that one. So thank you to the Premier for that.

One of my points of that one is, for example, the \$60 million carveout that is identified under progress to date was a commitment that was made during 2018. So we weren't even within the 19th Assembly at that point. And so this is something that we are thankfully reaping the benefits of, of work that was achieved in the 18th Assembly for that \$60 million carveout. And so I'm wondering if there is a commitment from Cabinet to pursue additional carve-offs like that from the National Housing Strategy so that we as well are leaving the 20th Assembly with a similar carve-off of funding for additional housing initiatives. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Absolutely, I do know that, yes, the co-investment money was a carve-out and it was from the work of last Assembly; however, it was -- did come into effect in this Assembly. So that is money on the table.

I also know that we're constantly talking. Like I said, it's the biggest priority that we have, I think all of us as Members of this Assembly. So it's not only are we asking at the table. We've identified it in our budget ask to the federal government. Hopefully, we'll see -- the budget should be coming out in the next month or so hopefully. And so hopefully we'll see more money.

We do know that Indigenous governments are getting a lot of money. And it's in our Arctic and Northern Policy Framework. I'm not sure if the Member's had a chance to review that, but it's also in there as well - housing is a key thing. It's -- so we've been pushing that. The three northern Premiers have been lobbying for housing as our number 1 priority. We're saying housing at every single chance and every single table we have we can. And if the federal government doesn't hear us, my commitment is I will say it louder so that the federal government does hear us, that housing is a core need. Not only core need to the people but a core need to the people, all residents of the NWT. And so I am hopeful that this budget, this federal budget, will see new money coming. And if not, you can count that my voice will get louder at those tables. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier. Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the commitment of pursuing additional funding that the 19th Assembly can also secure for the 20th Assembly as well. I think that's really important to keep that narrative of housing going and the pursuit of access to safe and secure housing for all Northerners going.

My next comment that I wanted to make in regards to that one is that that first piece of work with partners, including the federal and Indigenous governments to increase funding for housing programs, to me housing programs are completely different than the co-investment fund and the Rapid Housing Initiative because those, really, are infrastructure dollars for housing. And, in fact, with the Rapid Housing Initiative, it actually came with a caveat of having to secure operations and maintenance dollars for the future of that investment in housing infrastructure and so I really question whether the progress to date of

referencing the \$60 million carve-off and the Rapid Housing Initiative actually achieves the target of this priority at all, because it doesn't speak to ongoing funding for actual programs for housing. And so the programs in my mind, really would be programs that allow for operations and maintenance on ongoing basis of housing.

And so is, then, really, this item not fulfilled and that really the piece of securing funding for housing programs needs to be more in the form of ongoing consistent funding for operations and maintenance for the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Chair, actually on this one, I beg to defer with the Member. Being the housing Minister for a few years the last Assembly, I do know that every single program within the Housing Corporation is considered a program, not just operating and maintenance. There's lots of care and mobility, care, care of -- what -- 13 programs, and they're all -- not all of them are just about operate and maintenance, about fixing up homes. Some of them are about fixing up -- putting technology in so that people can age in place. Some of them are about doing homeownership programs. There's a whole vast of them. They're all called programs. So I beg to differ. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. So I'll move down, then, to the address home repair barriers to assist low income seniors and disabled individuals with aging in place. And then I'm happy to see that there were policy changes, then, that took affect that were implemented by the NWT Housing Corporation.

One of the big barriers to housing repair programs in the Northwest Territories is really the cost of the programs. And without an increase, then, to the budget of the NWT Housing Corporation, a policy change is only a portion of that barrier. And so will, then, the Premier commit to ensuring that there's an increase to the budget and the budget asks of the NWT Housing Corporation in our future capital and main estimate budgets? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The process of the budget negotiations is just that. It's a process of negotiations with Regular Members. I think that the Minister of Finance, myself as Premier, and all the Cabinet, have heard

directly from Members in this session about the importance of housing. I know that in the last budget that there was an increase; thank you to Members for further increase with this hearing now again.

I'm not going to say that I'm going to just put in an amount. I have one vote in finance; I don't have seven votes, you know. And so I know it's a need for us. But what I would like to say is let's wait to see what the budget comes from with the federal government. If the federal government is going to give us what I think is going to be substantial money and is going to give Indigenous governments substantial money, my fear is that we will have more money than we can spend. So before I make a commitment that I cannot keep, I'd rather say let me see what comes in this budget, the federal budget, and then ask me on the floor. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier. Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. My next question is in regards to the second piece of this priority, which is work with private sector and Indigenous governments to improve the availability of private market and housing options.

We've heard a lot about increases to public housing options in order to address the waitlist, and then we've also heard, especially even in the sitting of the Assembly, how the availability of private market rentals has had an impact on the ability of, even specifically the Minister of Health and Social Services, to fill vacancies in communities, specifically Behchoko and Tuktoyaktuk because of a lack of private market rentals. And so this piece here says fulfilled, but can the Premier speak more specifically to how private market rentals were fulfilled under this line item? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to refer to the Minister of Housing, Mr. Chair.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. [Audio] priority, we were able to enhance our agreement with the federal government, looking at the Canada Housing Benefit to really address that, the private market as well. And trying to be innovative as well too and just the recent purchase here in Yellowknife to try to relieve us of those Northview leases here in Yellowknife. But then outside of Yellowknife, I -- what I have noticed is that the -- we do have businesses coming forward and expressing interest but not necessarily we have a commitment from them, but then we're open to having those discussions and if there's an opportunity for us to be working with other stakeholders besides what we have been working

with so far, then we're open to be working with them. But I just really want to emphasize that with the improvement with our Canada Housing Benefit Program that was reconsidered by the federal government, and we did get an increase in federal funding with that program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Are there any further questions in this section on housing? Mr. Edjericon.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to -- I'm just looking at that document here in the previous number about affordable housing and reduced core housing needs.

Right now, as it is, you know, we already know that the Housing Corporation's been around for a while. It's actually 50 years now. And how housing and HAP houses and public housing ended in 1993 when Ottawa cut back on social housing, and then that was the beginning of the end of a very good program that was talked about for a long time. And I'm not really sure how -- how come 2038, I believe that's when these CMHC's looking to cutting funding off to the Housing Corporation, how -- and how housing's going to be handled. My -- I did ask that question earlier during budget process as we were going through it. So I'm just going to make a couple comments of -- maybe the Premier can help clarify a few questions for me on this one here is that, you know, as we talk about new funding coming from Ottawa to -- to help address the housing needs here in the North, sooner or later we need to ask ourselves as a government, you know, we are at \$2.2 billion now -- we are at 1.6 in the debt limit, the borrowing limit -- the maximum is 1.8 billion I believe. We're going to be hitting that wall soon. And, you know, our population is going down. The royalties that are coming up with the mining industry is going down. You know, we're really in a tough situation here in the North in terms of the economy with the diamond mines and some of them are at reclamation stage right now, etcetera.

How do we really trying to address the need of housing overall here in the Northwest Territories? And I know the Premier talked about trust and new relationship, and it's true. You know, the Housing Corporation needs to look at a new vision, a new mandate. Sooner or later, you know, land claims are going to be done. Self-government agreements are going to be done. And, you know, some of these agreements that are already in place have chapters in there for housing and then how they're going to, you know, work with Ottawa or work with the territorial governments to how the money's going to go from this pot to this pot so they could address their own needs, etcetera. If they hadn't said that, though, you know, my concern is that, you know, what happens when we reach that limit in terms of going to Ottawa and saying hey look,

you know, we need to increase our debt limit? What happens if they say no? You know, I mean, they may not say no but I'm just saying sooner or later, as a government, we really need to take a look at ourselves within the government here. So I haven't said that. I mean, we may need to really look at, you know -- the days of the Housing Corporation being 50 years old, we may have to go back and restructure that and really look at that piece of pie and how that's going to be carved up, if that's what, you know -- being something that needs to be talked about.

But sooner or later, it's concerning now that -- you know, right now I'll just mention in the budget here for this fiscal year, you know, our budget for just to repair public housing is \$3.4 million, and there's \$1.7 million for homeownership repairs for 33 communities in the Northwest Territories but yet I still have constituent members calling me and saying that my bathtub is full of -- that sewer's backed up in there again. And again, the policies are there that are hindering, you know, constituent people in our communities from getting homeownership repairs because they don't qualify or if they make too much -- or if they don't make too much. So there's a lot of work that needs to be done in some of areas.

So my concern would be to the Premier is that what happens when we reach that limit with Ottawa and how do we fix these problems? Because I know that it's a big issue but at the same time, you know, I -- I heard new vision, new mandate, but yet the Housing Corporation is 50 years old already. You know, so I just want to get some of your feedback. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I mean, I have the same concerns as the Member. I mean, I -- I'm old; I'm 61 years old, and I don't like to borrow money. I learned a long time ago don't borrow it because if you can't pay it back, you're in trouble. And if you can't live within your means, you're in bigger trouble. So I think that we have learn that. It's not as simple as just going and asking for more money every time we hit the limit.

We're going to have to make tough choices, not only this Assembly, in the next Assembly as well. There's going to have to be really tough choices. When you got 22 priorities, you're not making tough choices; you're trying to address them all.

Housing, like I said, that's why I came into politics because I cared about housing; I cared about people that weren't getting in to housing, people that were on the streets and people that were struggling to keeping their homes. That's why you'll

see one little tiny one in here. I have to thank my colleague Minister Green who stood beside me on this one. The only one I fought for really hard in all of these priorities when it came to was the one that says "transition 100 individuals/families to homeownership", because I do believe, from my experience from all the years I've worked with low income families and just the couple of years I was housing minister, I seen the HAP houses and I seen homeownership and I seen that people that own their own house took care of those houses. Not all of them; there's always people that fall through the cracks. But the majority of them took care of those houses. There was pride in them. Their furnaces were heated and their houses were clean and their kids were fed. It made a difference.

And I also seen the other side when they were in public housing units. In one community - I use it all the time - 400 windows in one community I had to fix as the housing Minister. Why? Because people didn't care. They didn't own those houses. So as soon as I fixed those windows, they would -- kids were breaking them in the community. That taught me that homeownership is the key.

I hear Mr. Chair talking about HAP houses. I was also impressed with that.

So if we can make this priority in this one little piece here that says transition 100 people into homeownership that are in public housing now, hopefully, my hope is that that's going to prove what I suspect all along, and that we will continue, not only in this Assembly but in Assemblies to come, we need to give people the houses that they ask for.

People -- Indigenous people have told me from the beginning the federal government promised us housing. I haven't forgotten that. And I believe you don't reward bad behavior. So if people are wrecking their homes, you don't give them the home to own; they need to be in public housing. But if they are taking care of the homes, reward them. And that's going to help address that 2038 number. Because you're right, 2038's the operating and maintenance money's supposed to be gone. However, some of you will be here in 2038 and I have faith in politicians that the federal government, they might say that they're going to put it off the table but they -- hopefully, there will be wise politicians of the day that will not let that happen. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Edjericon.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Premier, for your comments. Going forward, though, again, I'm only adding to the discussion because, I mean, I wasn't here at the beginning of this whole thing, but I think

in order to continue to build new trust and new relationship with Indigenous governments, I think this government's going to have to really take a look as to how we're going to deal with the issue of housing, how we're going to work with Indigenous governments, but most importantly we're going to have to work around the policies that are already in place. And if there's a way where we can look at maybe working with those Indigenous governments, we can do it through the contribution agreement, because to eliminate the -- if we were to use the Housing Corporation or even the policy becomes barriers, etcetera, the aboriginal governments and Indigenous governments, they also have capacity. You know, they have good people working there. And, you know, it's only a place for them to continue to grow. So we -- if there's a way we could build on that and really work to build that trust and look for new relationships, because we seen what the Housing Corporation did in the last 50 years. But now as claims get settled, you know, we're going to have to look at new way of doing business. And I know that I mentioned it before, there's also going to have to be some constitutional discussions down the road anyway and it's kind of -- if all the claims were done today, how is that -- how is this government going to take shape? And so those are some of the things that we need to talk about. So anyways, new relationships and looking at new contributions ways of being -- working with aboriginal governments. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I'd like to defer that one to Minister Chinna.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Minister Chinna.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I love this question because, you know what, I come from a settled land claim area and also self-government is happening in my riding as well too. We've got some seven of those discussions happening right now. And housing has often come up but one of the things that I really pride on is Indigenous partnership and looking at new ways of doing business in the smaller communities.

I just want to just reflect very quickly on my riding is that my home community of Fort Good Hope had created the K'asho Got'ine Housing Society, because they were tired of dealing with our programs, with our -- the way that we allocate money, and working with the local housing authorities. So they came together. They created the society. So now we are working in partnership where they're able to look at operate -- not operate -- repairs for homeownership in their

communities. And this is something that I'm really wanting to do across the Northwest Territories.

But also the Housing Corporation has entered into several partnerships as well too. And like I had said, they range from, you know, cleaning fuel tanks, replacing fuel tanks, stairs, sidings, pilings, and whatever that -- that is a priority in those communities.

And also working with them, I want to say the collaboration that is happening as well too, that we're going to see more of those announcements coming forward. We do have 18 months in this government and I'm guaranteeing that you're going to see a lot of improvement within the corporation that I would like to now be more focused on as well as what is going to be left for the next government and what kind of funding allocations are we going to be able to pursue through the federal government, also looking at the federal pots that are there too.

There's a number of co-investment applications that have been submitted by Indigenous groups. I want to say the last number I looked at was 16. And they're going through the process as too. They want to own housing as well.

The corporation is also available to be working with those Indigenous groups as well. One of the ones that I'm really proud and we've made a lot of headway with is with the Metis and working with Mr. Bailey in his community as well too and in looking at his submission and looking at improvements and where we can actually meet halfway.

So just establishing those relationships, improving them, is a priority of what it is that I would like to accomplish within this portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Are there any further questions on increase the number of affordable homes and reduce core housing need?

Seeing none, committee, we will move to pages 23 to 24: Settle and implement treaty land, resources, and self-government agreements. Questions? Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the goals here was that the GNWT was going to publish its principles and interests. You know, we're really supposed to have done that spring 2021; it's now spring 2022 and we haven't. But I see here that in the coming months it's supposed to be published. Does the Premier have an update of when those principles and interests will be published. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll start it now and then turn it to Martin for more -- dipping into that and the timing.

So the first step we did was we reviewed the whole thing through Cabinet. Cabinet has reviewed them all. We will be working with the standing committee. We will also be working with the Indigenous governments. And then we will be releasing them.

But Martin, do you have more -- sorry, through you, Mr. Chair, if I could turn to the deputy minister to give a more definitive timeline for those actions to happen.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And the goal is to have that work completed so we can share at least in draft with standing committee and begin conversations with Indigenous governments about them in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I look forward to getting these out there and I think they give something for the public to have a conversation about. They give, you know, something for Regular MLAs to talk to Indigenous governments about. They allow us to have some sort of negotiation conversation in public. But to me, this -- I would view this as step one. I reviewed the federal principles and interests. You know, there's not a lot of controversy in what they say but then they went, and they made a lot of significant changes to their negotiating mandates on very specific things, you know, such as funding formulas or cede and surrender clauses; you know, things that really get into the weeds that I suspect these principles and interests will not do.

So my question is once these are finalized, is there then a plan to overhaul the mandates that our negotiators have, you know, that those are not public documents; they're not -- the other parties at the negotiating table will see them but they're really what's driving it. So I'm wondering if these will then flow into an overhaul of our mandate directions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I think it's going to do two things. One, it's going to open it up so that there will be more dialogue and more things that we might be able to challenge, not only ourselves but Indigenous governments can challenge us on. Even in the Cabinet review, we've already made some things that said why are we doing that? So we've already started that process, in fairness.

The other thing that it's going to do for me, which is just as big if not bigger, is that there's this misperception out there that we have these hidden mandates and they're really secretive. And I think all Cabinet Members would agree that when we reviewed them, they're not really -- like the federal government, they're not these mysterious things that change at every table. They're pretty basic. So I am thinking that once we have them out there, it'll solve a lot of contention that people are afraid that they're making different deals at different tables, because I think that's a part of the problem. So I think it's going to do twofold. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: No further questions, Mr. Chair. I'll just note that the Standing Committee on Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs plans to table our interim report in the coming days so I expect we'll have much more conversation following it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Don't ask me because I just talked, but thank you, and I'm looking forward to reading that report because I've actually already seen a brief preview of it so I'm not sure what I'm supposed to say. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Are there any further questions? Ms. Martselos.

MS. MARTSELOS: On page 23, Mr. Chair, the two agreements that have been concluded are two final trans-boundary agreements. Are there going to be consultation with Indigenous governments within the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories before these are ratified?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually, those consultations should be almost finished by now, actually. What I can say, Mr. Chair, is I heard that there was some contention about them, and I had my own contentions about them.

We were -- my understanding is that when those agreements were first done, it was agreements bilateral, not trilateral. The NWT wasn't part of the discussions. It was those Indigenous governments and Canada. And we had to fight to get at that table. And what -- when I first took over -- and that was just at the beginning of the consultation, it was kind of a signed deal, the Indigenous governments from the other jurisdictions asked me, how do you

think the Indigenous governments in the NWT will take this? And my answer to them, because I like to be honest, was probably the same way you would take it when we come in to your land.

So I think that there was -- I'm looking forward to seeing the report. I'm not sure if we'll get the consultation or if that's just federal government's going to get that. Martin might be able to speak more to that. But I do think there will be some issues.

But I've also been talking about the Indigenous -- to the Indigenous governments here. If other jurisdictions are allowed to do that because of their hunting rights, then why aren't we looking at that as well? And I have heard from some of the governments that they will be looking at that, because hunting didn't stop at borders. Those borders are defined by -- God knows who? But it wasn't Indigenous people. So if it's good for the goose, it's good for the gander. So I've been telling Indigenous groups here, look south, my friends, look south.

Mr. Chair, I'm not sure if Martin could expand if we're going to actually see the results of that consultation piece or if that just goes to the federal government. But I wouldn't mind asking him through you.

MR. GOLDNEY: Chair, so the consultation period has ended and the parties are just now considering what they've heard and evaluating whether or not the text of agreement needs to change as a result. And so that's how the feedback will be reflected if there are changes to that consultation draft agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Martselos.

MS. MARTSELOS: So the two agreements only include the harvesting? I thought -- I think is there only the harvesting that -- because once a trans-boundary agreement include land, there's a -- under section 35, there's a -- there's a barrier to any future development because you'll have to consult the person outside the boundary; am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, they don't but for a concise answer on that, I'd like to turn to the deputy minister again to talk about the areas that they do in --

MR. GOLDNEY: Sure. Mr. Chair, and the two proposed agreements do include more than just harvesting rights, including a bit of land selection and provisions respecting participation in future

decision-making. So the Member is correct that the potential scope of consultation might broaden as a result of these agreements. But even if it were just a development that had potential effect on harvesting rights, that obligation to consult would still be triggered. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Martselos.

MS. MARTSELOS: Well I beg to differ, Mr. Chair. Once you have an outside group owning land here in the territories, they have a right to section 35 and that means in any jurisdiction. That section 35 comes into play even if you want to open a mine and if they decide that they don't want to do that or they want to have IBAs for that or if they want to have ownership, they have that right just like any other Indigenous group in the territory, and I don't know if that has been conveyed to all the leadership in the Northwest Territories.

And when I stand here, that means it doesn't only affect Indigenous people; it affects all the non-Indigenous people in the whole territory. So I just want to know how you're going to address that, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to turn to Martin on -- or to deputy minister on that one. But before I turn to him, I'd like to say that, really reinforcing that, we're either at the table or not at the table, and for the longest time we weren't even at the table. The federal government wasn't even talking to us. The previous government wasn't really friendly with the federal government, and it took a long time building that relationship to the point where they let us at the table again. But, again, Martin could probably speak better to section 35 than myself. Thank you.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. -- Mr. Chair. So certainly if the agreements are ratified, these trans-boundary groups that will become owners of aboriginal title land will be able to make decisions respecting the lands they owned, and they will be treated as any other land owner when it comes to -- when it comes to development.

When it comes to section 35, you know, certainly any activity that might have an adverse effect on established or asserted Indigenous rights will trigger that obligation to consult and that obligation, frankly, exists now, even in the absence of a -- of a settled agreement because we have real and constructive knowledge that these parties have asserted traditional harvesting rights in the southeast corner of the Northwest Territories. So if there were a development that were proposed

there, we would be consulting with them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Rocky Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Martselos.

MS. MARTSELOS: So, Mr. Chair, you know, when we're putting the people, or the future generations at risk in this manner that, you know, we're building a territory for future generations, it's not going to be me that's going to be worried about if a mine's coming in or not, I don't think. But those are very serious -- it's a very serious way that we're looking at this. And let trans-boundary agreements into the territories is not okay. I don't care -- you can say, you know, this and that and the other and now you're in good standing with the federal government; not everybody is. I'm not used to a government that is used to spending all the money and going into deficit, and that's exactly what has been happening, even at the federal level. And this thing with the two trans-boundary agreements is going to -- you can't even make an agreement with a couple of -- a couple of Indigenous groups to move forward; how the hell you're going to do it with -- sorry, Mr. Chair. But how are you going to be able to do it with -- with outside interests? Like, that's a really big question. I'm very concerned about this, the way this government is approaching the two agreements that were concluded, which are two final trans-boundary agreements, and our own government can't even settle some of the outstanding implementation and agreements here in the territories. That's very concerning. And I'm sorry I have to disagree with the direction but, you know, with the -- just knowing the knowledge at the table and how -- how awful it could get at -- at trilateral meeting -- and Martin knows that. I mean, you know, and -- and, you know, it's very serious that this is -- this is going forward, and I'm sorry that I can't agree to something like that. And I just -- it's -- it's very concerning that our government will take that approach without -- without -- I think it's a -- it's something that affects all 19 people in this -- in this room and making a big decision like that that affects all the Indigenous groups and all the non-Indigenous participants and people of the Northwest Territories, and I just -- I'm very concerned about that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I stated it was either we're at the table or we weren't at the table. It's always better to be at the table; at least you get some kind of food.

This is -- and I have faith in the -- I trust in the Indigenous governments when they -- part of the consultation process that they would brought not only the concerns brought by the Member but even more so because they had time to process it; we

only get a few minutes. But this is not always the case. This one might be contentious but there is another cross-boundary one that's happening right now as well. I think it's called Aninhan Dun -- that's the pronunciation? Which is actually with the Gwich'in people from the Yukon, and that is one is going really well. The Gwich'in people aren't fighting it. They see themselves as families. So the -- we're working on that one. That one's close to being done too, and that one will take some of our -- the west coastline as well, and that one doesn't have the contention that we have with the southeast corner. So there's always -- what I've learned from that process is that it all -- every negotiation table is different. Some will be contentious. They don't see themselves as family, and others ones, they see themselves as family and there will be less contention with that.

But what I really want to stress to the Member is that I have emphasized to the Indigenous governments that if it's good for them, then we need to put our claims in as well, that Indigenous governments from the North have to put their claims in for the jurisdictions outside of the NWT as well to be fair. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I move that the chair rise and report progress.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress.

---Carried

Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: May I please have the report of Committee of the Whole, Member for Hay River South.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 23; Bill 29, Minister's Statement 202-19(2); Tabled Document 561-19(2) and Tabled Document 567-19(2) and would like to report progress. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Do we have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North. All those in favour. All those opposed? Any abstentions? We have a tie -- no, just kidding. Motion is carried.

---Carried.

Third reading of the bills. Minister responsible for Justice.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 37:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACCESS TO
INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY
ACT,
CARRIED

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 37, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. A motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Members, pursuant to Rule 10.3(1), a recorded vote is required. The clerk shall call on each Member by riding name to cast their vote, starting with the mover; those participating remotely and those participating in the Chamber in the order of their seats. When the clerk calls on you, please state whether you are for, against, or abstaining from third reading.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member for Hay River North.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for -- the Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she is in favour in of third reading of the bill. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she is for third reading of the bill. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: Agreed.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated she is for third reading of the bill.

The Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she is for third reading of the bill.

The Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated he is for third reading of the bill.

The Member for Range Lake.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member has indicated she for third reading of the bill.

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

HON. JULIE GREEN: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member has indicated she is for third reading of the bill.

The Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Sahtu.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: In favour.

MR. SPEAKER: The results of the reported vote: 15 in favour, zero opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 37 has had third reading.

Third reading of bills. Minister responsible for Justice.

BILL 38:
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT
ACT, 2021,
CARRIED

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 38, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Members, pursuant to Rule 10.3 (1), a recorded vote is required. The clerk shall call on each Member by riding name to cast their vote starting with the mover; those participating remotely and those participating in the Chamber in the order of their seats. When the clerk calls on you, please state whether you are for, against, or abstaining from third reading. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member for Hay River North.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she is in favour of third reading of the bill.

The member for Yellowknife South.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated she is in favour of third reading of the bill. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated that she is in favour of third reading of the bill.

The Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated that she is in favour of third reading of the bill.

The Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated that he is for third reading of the bill.

The honourable Member for Range Lake.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member has indicated that she is for third reading of the bill.

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

HON. JULIE GREEN: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member has indicated that she is in favour of third reading of the bill.

The Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Sahtu.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): For Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: For.

MR. SPEAKER: The results of the recorded vote: 15 in favour, zero opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried.

Bill 38 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Minister responsible for Finance

BILL 49:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2021-2022,
CARRIED

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 49, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion? Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. This is the infrastructure supplementary appropriation, and I voted against this at second reading but there's a couple of items that really cause me a lot of concern in here, is the use of fish habitat compensation funds for a bridge replacement in a completely different ecosystem. I just don't believe that that's appropriate, and I don't want to be seen as supporting use of fish habitat compensation funds in this manner

And secondly, the \$2.75 million regarding the dispute around the letter of credit replacement fund for the Deh Cho Bridge, I believe that there needs to be a better and more transparent explanation to the public about what that is all about. I've heard complaints from a number of constituents about that as well so I will not be supporting this bill. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. The motion is in order. To the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

Members, pursuant to Rule 10.3(1), a recorded vote is required. The clerk shall call on each Member by riding name to cast their vote, starting with the mover; those participating remotely and those participating in the Chamber in the order of their seats. When the clerk calls on you, please state whether you are for, against, or abstaining from the third reading. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: I'm for.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated that she is for third reading of the bill.

The Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated that she is for third reading of the bill.

The honourable Member for Range Lake.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated that she is for third reading of the bill.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

HON. JULIE GREEN: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Honourable Member has indicated that she is for third reading of the bill.

Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Hay River South.

The Member has indicated that he is for third reading of the bill.

The Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Member for Sahtu.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): For Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Member for Hay River North.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated that she is for third reading of the bill. The Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Against.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Frame Lake has indicated that he is against third reading of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The results of the recorded vote: 14 in favour; one opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 49 has had third reading.

Third reading of bills. Minister responsible for Finance

BILL 50:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 3, 2021-
2022,
CARRIED

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 50, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

Members, pursuant to Rule 10.3(1), a recorded vote is required. The clerk shall call on each Member by riding name to cast their votes starting with the mover; those participating remotely and those participating in the Chamber in the order of their seats. When the clerk calls on you, please state whether you are for, against, or abstaining from third reading. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member's indicated that she is in favour of third reading of the bill.

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated that she is in favour of third reading of the bill.

The Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated that she is in favour of third reading of the bill.

The honourable Member for Range Lake.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member's indicated that she is for third reading of the bill.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

HON. JULIE GREEN: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Honourable Member has indicated that she is in favour for third reading of the bill.

The Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Opposed.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Member for Sahtu.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: In favour.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The honourable Member for Hay River North.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Opposed.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated that she is opposed to third reading of the bill.

The Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: For.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): The Member has indicated that he is for third reading of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The results of the recorded vote: 13 in favour; two opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 50 has had third reading.

Third readings of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 29th, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

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

12. Petitions

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions

15. Motions

16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 48, Arbitration Act

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act
- Bill 29, Resource Royalty Information Disclosure Statute Amendment Act
- Minister's Statement 202-19(2), Annual Status Report on the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2019-2023
- Tabled Document 561-19(2), 2022-2023 Main Estimates
- Tabled Document 567-19(2), Annual Status Report – 2019-2023 Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, February 2021 - January 2022 of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2019-2023

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 29th, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

