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The Honourable Frederick Blake Jr, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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ORDERS OF THE DAY4581

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, October 13, 2022****Members Present**

Hon. Diane Archie, Hon. Frederick Blake Jr., Mr. Bonnetrouge, Hon. Paulie Chinna, Mr. Edjericon, Hon. Julie Green, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Nokleby, Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Semmler, Hon. R.J. Simpson, Mr. Rocky Simpson, Hon. Shane Thompson, Ms. Weyallon-Armstrong.

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.): Thank you. Good afternoon, colleagues. Today is the first time this House has met since the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Before we begin, I ask you to join me in a moment of silence for our late Queen.

Thank you, colleagues. Please be seated.

Members, I also want to take a moment to reflect on the passing of Elizabeth Harnum and Elaine Keenan-Bengts. Ms. Harnum was the Northwest Territories' first Languages Commissioner and was an advocate for the revitalization of our Indigenous languages. Ms. Keenan-Bengts was the Northwest Territories' first Information and Privacy Commissioner and was a strong champion for the protection of people's personal information.

Since we last met, we have also lost a former Member of this Assembly, Alfred Moses. A Member of the 17th and 18th Legislative Assemblies, Alfred served as a regular Member, committee chair and Minister. Alfred and I worked together for eight years here at the Legislative Assembly. I am grateful to have become friends with him during that time. Alfred was a champion of our youth and healthier communities. His passing was a great loss for the town of Inuvik, the Beaufort-Delta and the Northwest Territories.

As a territory, we are a better place because of the service, dedication, and passion of Ms. Harnum, Ms. Keenan-Bengts and Mr. Moses. On behalf of this House, I offer our deepest condolences and gratitude to their families.

Many of our communities throughout the Northwest Territories are dealing with the loss of loved ones. It is, especially gratifying to see how our communities come together at times of tragedy. Continued prayers for all those throughout the Northwest Territories as we

come together and show we care and help out as much as we can.

Colleagues, please join me in thanking the Aklavik drummers for joining us today.

---Applause

It was my pleasure to welcome them to this Chamber, and I feel blessed to be able to share their talents with you and everybody who is joining us in the gallery or following our proceedings on television or online. It is an honour to be able to see and hear our culture in this House.

I would also like to take a moment to advise Members that we will be providing interpretation into the following languages during this sitting: Chipewyan, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey, Tlicho, and French. Please join me in thanking our interpreters for the work they do; they make it possible for us to use and honour our languages. Mahsi.

---Applause

Members, I would now like to welcome you back. We last met in this Chamber on June 2nd. I know that each of us were busy with the ongoing business of government and committees; however, I hope that you also found time to connect with family and friends and recharge your batteries. Our jobs are not easy, and to effectively represent our constituents we need to take care of ourselves. It is an honour for us to be here on behalf of our constituents and all residents of the Northwest Territories.

Members, I would like to remind you to conduct yourselves in keeping with the rules of this Assembly. Show respect for one another, for this institution, and, most importantly, for the people we represent in this Chamber. We won't always see eye to eye with each other. That is not possible. But we can and must treat each other with dignity and respect. We are here to serve as representatives for the people that elected us and put their trust in us. Take pride in that work.

Now, colleagues, it is my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

It reads: Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2023-2024; Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2022; Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2022-2023 during the Second Session of the 19th Legislative Assembly. Yours Truly, Leonard Kenny, Deputy Commissioner.

Thank you, colleagues. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Education, Culture, and Employment.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 262-19(2): AURORA COLLEGE TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

HON. R. J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the transformation of Aurora College into a polytechnic university is often presented as one project, but it is in fact a collection of over 100 projects spread out over three phases. The work has been a collaboration between Aurora College and the Government of the Northwest Territories, with wide-ranging and ongoing engagement throughout the process.

Significant progress toward achieving this mandate commitment has been marked by the completion of key milestones, bringing us closer to the accreditation and launch of an arm's length polytechnic university that responds to the needs of Northerners.

With foundational planning completed in phase 1, we are now in the second phase of the transformation, which includes finalizing a facilities plan, re-establishing the board of governors, establishing an academic council, and completing changes to the college's organizational structure.

Mr. Speaker, phase 2 is on track, and a clearer vision of the future polytechnic university is beginning to take shape. Over the summer, Aurora College began efforts to recruit the Aurora College board of governors. With recent amendments to the Aurora College Act, Aurora College's new governance system will have three bodies that together govern the college, at arm's length from the government. The board will serve the people

of the Northwest Territories by setting the vision and mission for Aurora College, and eventually for the polytechnic university. Recruitment efforts will continue until enough nominations have been received and the required competencies have been met, and I hope to see the new board in place early in the new year.

Last month, we released the Polytechnic University Facilities Master Plan. The facilities master plan is a comprehensive, strategic document that provides a picture of what the polytechnic university could look like. It proposes enhancements and expansions to existing Aurora College facilities and includes information on teaching and research facilities at all three campuses and across their network of community learning centers. The Facilities Master Plan will be a key planning tool for the Aurora College board of governors, who are now ultimately responsible for the financial and capital planning decisions.

The Facilities Master Plan was informed by extensive engagement. A summary of feedback collected during that engagement can be found in the What We Heard report that was released this summer. Youth, Aurora College students, faculty and staff, Indigenous governments, community governments, post-secondary education partners, industry, GNWT departments, and local community members were engaged and provided valuable information that helped shape the document. I believe that the Facilities Master Plan captures the key themes heard during the engagement process and will support the needs of NWT students and residents.

Mr. Speaker, the polytechnic university will be an institution for all NWT residents. It will provide enhanced education opportunities to residents and create economic benefits across the territory with job creation and capacity building.

During this final year of the 19th Legislative Assembly, we can expect to see substantial progress on the Aurora College transformation, and I look forward to keeping Members of this House and NWT residents informed of the progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 263-19(2): 2022 FLOODING – DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Mr. Speaker, for the second consecutive year, several communities throughout the Northwest Territories were impacted by flooding. That flooding caused significant damage not only to homes and properties of residents but also to the roads, buildings, airports and ferry landings they use regularly. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories' response to the devastating impacts of this spring's flooding, particularly in the South Slave, Deh Cho, and the Beaufort-Delta regions, required effort from several departments.

As the Department of Infrastructure is responsible for the operation and maintenance of public buildings and transportation infrastructure and systems, today I want to highlight my department's tremendous efforts to respond and assist in the Northwest Territories recovery from the flooding. Many of the department's staff were responding while their own properties were being affected.

Air transportation is vital in the NWT. During this spring's flooding, the Merlyn Carter Airport in Hay River saw extensive flooding to its main runway, which led to erosion and damage to airfield lighting and slope along the runway. Crews and contractors worked hard for six weeks to restore the main runway to active service. Maintenance staff were also able to quickly get the secondary gravel runway open so emergency flights and air traffic could continue operating while repairs were made to the main runway. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT's buildings and infrastructure were also repaired as quickly as possible in Hay River and K'at'l'odeeche First Nation. This work included repairs made to the damaged K'at'l'odeeche pump house to be able to keep the water pumps operational and ensure the community had access to water.

Inspections staff inspected gas, boiler and electric systems in homes, schools, pump houses, regional offices, and other flood-damaged GNWT properties within Hay River and K'at'l'odeeche during and after the flood. These inspections were conducted regularly to ensure these systems were operating normally and that properties were safe to the public.

Highway crews worked around the clock pumping water across flooded highways, keeping our highway systems open for safe travel, controlling traffic and escorting vehicles. Efforts included working with the Town of Hay River to build an access road to Paradise Gardens, restoring access through Vale Island in Hay River, Escarpment Creek on Highway No. 1, and dealing with the significantly

flooded sections along the Dempster Highway. The highway transportation officers provided control at highway entrances to affected communities so that anyone entering these communities did so safely, understanding the risks.

Infrastructure staff also did outstanding work to restore and maintain ferry and highway operations, removing ice blocks at the Tsiigehtchic ferry crossing, at the Mackenzie River ferry crossing, and at the Liard crossing. Staff rebuilt and fortified washed-out ferry landings several times and actively monitored river conditions for debris and high-water levels to ensure ferry operations could resume as soon as it was safe. Marine transportation staff in Hay River were able to clear the terminal basin and synchro lift waterways of silt so that barges and boats could safely be lifted and loaded in and out of the water. After the flood, MTS crews successfully retrieved a sunken barge, cleaned up the shipyard and terminal yard of debris.

Mr. Speaker, this spring's flooding presented numerous challenges for the GNWT, residents, and our communities. At this time, I would like to recognize all the GNWT staff and first responders who did their jobs under demanding conditions in response to the flooding the territory experienced. Their efforts ensured residents could continue to access critical infrastructure, supplies, and services during a difficult time. I would also like to thank the NWT residents, some of whom had to leave their homes and possessions for safety. You showed tremendous resilience, courage, compassion, and patience during a difficult time. Quyananni, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 264-19(2):
RESPONSE TO THE NWT CHIEF
CORONER'S REPORT ON SUICIDE

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a heavy subject impacting many northern residents, and I acknowledge that my statement may be triggering for some people as it includes subject matter around self-harm, suicide, and mental health in the NWT. I encourage anyone who may find these subject matters to be triggering to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety, which may include stepping out of this House or muting my statement until I finish.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Last week, the chief coroner felt compelled to release suicide statistics for the Northwest Territories, earlier than usual, because of an alarmingly high rate of suicide deaths so far this year. There have been 18 suicides, most of them men between the ages of 20 and 29. There have been more suicides in a single year in the Northwest Territories than any previous year in the last decade.

I want to express my deepest sympathies to the families and communities who have lost loved ones. The grief that comes with the death of a loved one can be overwhelming, I am committed to providing communities with the support they need to heal.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not use the following term lightly, I do believe we are experiencing a mental health crisis in the Northwest Territories. The number of suicides we have seen so far this year, along with increased mental health hospitalizations, and increased staff vacancies, tells us that more attention and energy is needed to address this crisis. Thousands of NWT residents are currently struggling with their mental health. And while the GNWT is offering more mental health supports than ever before, we know that too often people in need of that support are not seeking it out. We need to step up our effort to reach people. We must respond to this crisis with the focus it demands.

We know that there are risk factors driven by poor mental health. Depression plays a role. The pandemic. Substance use. Trauma. The causes of despair may also include lack of access to employment and educational opportunities, a lack of healthy and safe recreational opportunities, poor housing, and inadequate food. These social determinants, combined with the inter-generational trauma caused by forced colonization, systemic racism and oppression, continue to weigh heavily on families and communities. Given this complexity, I believe a whole-of-government response is needed, and I have initiated discussions with Cabinet about how we can strengthen our approach to suicide intervention and prevention.

I would like to share some information about the approach of the Department of Health and Social Services. I have been working with the mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, whose community has experienced four suicides since June. In response to their requests, we have provided additional counsellors to work with residents in Tuktoyaktuk. We also expedited the community's Suicide Prevention Fund application, which provided the funding to

bring Jordin Tootoo to the community last week as an inspirational speaker. Jordin is someone who the community felt they could connect with and who could connect with youth and others who are grieving. Communities understand best what they need in times of crisis, and we are working with them to tailor our support. Mr. Speaker, we have heard from some residents that they are most comfortable talking to counsellors from their own community, and we are trying to adapt to a community-based approach that will make this possible. We have provided funding to support the Dene Wellness Warriors program, and we are assisting communities to hire these Rhodes College graduates.

In addition to the community counselling program, there are child and youth care counsellors in schools across the territory, and residents can access helplines 365 days a year. The Suicide Prevention Fund helps communities deliver programming or to obtain training they believe is effective and appropriate to address mental health challenges.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is critically important for me and the Department of Health and Social Services. Offering effective and culturally-safe mental wellness and addictions programs and services is a priority of this government, and for me personally. While we are putting more resources than ever into mental wellness programming and resources, I am concerned that more people are not accessing these services. We are working to understand why that is, and on how we can achieve better uptake.

If you, a friend, or loved one is struggling with mental health or talking about suicide please listen to them and reach out for help. You do not have to be alone.

I encourage all my colleagues here today to share our mental health and community wellness support information with your constituents. I have posted links to these resources on my social media channels. These challenges affect more people than any of us can imagine, and we can all be part of the solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Deputy Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 265-19(2):
PREMIER AND MINISTER ABSENT FROM
THE HOUSE

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that the Honourable Caroline Cochrane will be absent from the

House for today and tomorrow to attend the 2022 Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland.

As well, I wish to advise the House that the Honourable Caroline Wawzonek will be absent from the House for today to attend the federal/provincial/territorial Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers in Vancouver, British Columbia. Quyananni, Mr. Speaker

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1152-19(2): DREDGING IN HAY RIVER

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk to dredging, a topic that has been discussed on the floor of this House for many years with no sitting government wanting to take responsibility for it. The federal government at one time provided the infrastructure and resources to dredge the harbour of the Hay River. That program ended in the early 90s, resulting in equipment being sold off and not replaced.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Hay River has the largest inland port in western Canada. It is home to a Canadian coast guard base, a federal department of fisheries and oceans office, our own marine transportation service, and a viable commercial fishing industry. As one can fathom, Hay River is a major and significant component of our northern transportation corridor and fishing industry. It is where truck and rail freight from the south converge to be loaded on barges destined for communities and mineral resource development projects further north. It is important we do not forget that fact.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the buildup of sediments at the mouth of the east channel of the Hay River reached a critical level. Last spring, and throughout the summer, MTS, coast guard, and commercial fishing vessels all experienced grounding of vessels on sandbars resulting in negative impacts on equipment, marine service delivery, and industry livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that dredging is a federal government's responsibility as that has been the answer of the current and previous ministers have communicated repeatedly. I have said it before, and I'll say it again. Regardless of whose responsibility it is, the issue is in our back yard. So as far as I'm

concerned, it is our problem. Is it our responsibility, and we must do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, this government, with financial support from the Government of Canada, has, over the last several years, spent well over \$50 million on the commercial fishery, more than \$50 million on the purchase, repair, and operation of MTS assets and property, and most recently we are anticipating \$200 million plus to address flooding damage in the community of Hay River; costs that continue to rise when harbour access is compromised.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I expect this government to action its dredging plan prior to marine vessels leaving the harbour this coming spring, and I expect to see dredging take place at the mouth of the Hay River this winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Members' statements. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1153-19(2): MENTAL HEALTH

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about suicide. Just by saying this, I feel that I'm doing something I shouldn't. Growing up in the North my entire life, I've seen and heard of many suicides. What I never did was talk about it after a loss or be given the tools on what to do or how to talk about suicide after it happens. We seem to try to move on and then it happens again. The families or those close to the ones who lost to suicide never get over the loss of their loved one. Sometimes we think we didn't do something, and we didn't do enough. We ask ourselves, what could have I have done? The thing is there are so many social and cultural factors that contribute to death by suicide as well as underlying mental health conditions, addictions, and asking for help can be extremely difficult for those, as mental health is not looked at the same way as physical health.

Mr. Speaker, this was part of my Member's statement from February 28, 2020, long before we even knew what COVID was going to do to us, long before we closed down the world to COVID. And since then, it's only gotten worse in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent suicide rates just released say that in 2022, as the Minister stated, by the end of August, that's the third quarter, we have lost 18 residents. This is almost double than in the entire year of 2021. And since that quarterly report, in my region

we have buried more, more young people in my region. It also shows that it's the highest in my region. It went from one to seven deaths since then. Most are male between 20 and 29. I want to help them. I want us to help them. How do we reach them? I'm at a loss, Mr. Speaker. As an MLA, what can I do? As a mother, as a friend, as an aunty, as a member of my community, what can I do?

We have our Aboriginal organizations, and they're trying to work on this to assist to come up with plans to prevent this because we see it; we see it in our lives every day in our own communities. We have GNWT trying to assist families in communities, but we continue to lose more, more people to suicide, Mr. Speaker. My heart goes out to all those families that are suffering from a loss and those who are suffering with depression or addictions. Please talk to somebody. You are loved. You are important.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions for the Minister of Health.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1154-19(2):
TAR SANDS DISCHARGE

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I raised the issue of discharges from the Alberta tar sands tailings several times in our last three sittings. I'm pleased to say that the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources has shared one confidential written update since June. I encourage the Minister to do that again, and perhaps a little more often, but also make more information public.

What I learned from the last couple of months from my own research is that GNWT has signed two contracts for up to \$60,000 to end March 2024 to provide technical support during the development of potential tar sands discharge regulations. Associated Environmental Consultants Limited of Vernon, BC, will carry out a technical review of oil sands effluent treatment. Hutchinson Environmental Services Limited of Edmonton will review the work being done by Alberta on oil sands wastewater toxicity. It is a good thing to get this assistance and be prepared.

As I understood it, the governments of Alberta and Canada continue to deny the Government of the Northwest Territories a seat at the table on the oil sands monitoring oversight committee. Planning continues towards discharge of tar sands tailings water into the waters that flow into the Northwest Territories.

It's not clear whether or when our government may conduct its own modelling of impacts of discharges into the Northwest Territories.

I'll have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources about what is going on with regard to tar sands tailings pond discharges and when information will start to be shared with the public. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Members' statements. Member for Great Slave.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1155-19(2):
EULOGY FOR ELAINE KEENAN-BENGTSS

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Elaine Keenan-Bengtss died at home in Yellowknife after a short and courageous battle with cancer.

Elaine was born on October 3rd, 1958, in Saskatoon and grew up in Sherwood Park, Alberta. In 1969, Elaine's family moved to Yellowknife where she spent over 50 years of her life raising a family, practicing law, and becoming an unwavering force advocating for and supporting our community. Elaine earned her law degree from the University of Alberta and was called to the Northwest Territories bar in 1983. She was ferocious when practicing law and fearless in court, standing firm even when challenged by the judge or opposing counsel. She was known affectionately amongst her colleagues for being a bulldog in court.

Fighting for the right thing was a hallmark of Elaine's long tenure as the NWT and Nunavut Information and Privacy Commissioner. She served more than two decades as the NWT's Privacy Commissioner, firmly believing that our democracy depends on the vigilant protection of privacy rights and the accountability of public institutions.

Elaine was active on various committees of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories and the Canadian Bar Association, or CBA. For a time, she represented the NWT on the Family Law Practice Committee of the CBA and chaired the CBA Women's Law Committee. She was nationally respected for her work and commitment to the profession and the people she served.

Elaine was recognized with the CBA's Doug Miller Award in 2013 for her contributions to the Canadian Bar Association.

Elaine's grit and determination extended to volunteerism, and she was active in many

sports, including as a board member of Sport North, a dignitary for the Arctic Winter Games, and involvement with Volleyball NWT. In her younger years, she played slo-pitch with the Legal Eagles. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

One significant contribution Elaine made to our community was as a parent-volunteer board member and president of the Yellowknife Gymnastics Club. Through her leadership and drive, funds were raised to build the gymnastics facility at the multiplex. This included leading a group of four families in pledging their homes as security against the gym's mortgage without which the gym could not have been built. Elaine also served as a member of the board of the Yellowknife Community Foundation from 2018 to 2022.

As a mother of three girls - Amanda, Lauren and Stacie - Elaine was always there to provide love and counsel when they needed it. Her girls gave her seven beautiful grandchildren who were Elaine's sunshine and world. I've known Elaine's husband Peter for several years, and it is apparent whenever we have spoken about Elaine, what a wonderful woman she was and that they share a love that is timeless.

My thoughts are with Elaine's family and friends as they continue to adjust to a life without their beloved Elaine. She will be truly missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1156-19(2):
GRADE 12 EDUCATION LEVELS

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe most, if not all the Members in this room, recognize the problems we have with education grade levels at the high school level in our small communities. Most of our students are graduating with lower grade levels than as required to continue into post-secondary institutions. Alarming, this has been happening for quite some time with no concrete actions to address and improve grade levels. I believe this is recognized by the school principals, school staff, and the regional superintendents. But nothing has been done to remedy this situation.

Mr. Speaker, many of our leaders recognize that education is key to a better and brighter future for our youth and young adults. I note

that most trades entrance exams require at least a grade 9 grade-level and many higher positions require at least a grade 10 level. Most of these require proficiency in math, English, and science courses.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot get the education bodies to share the actual grade levels of our grade 12 graduates. I don't know why this information is not shared with the parents, the district education authorities, and the community leaders. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the ECE, minister at the appropriate time. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Deh Cho. Members' statements. Member for Monfwi.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1157-19(2):
HOUSING NWT ARREARS AND WAGE
GARNISHING

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Garnished wages. Mr. Speaker, I hear many stories from constituents in my riding about payments arrears to the NWT Housing Corporation. Now it's Housing NWT. Many people from elders to single-parent families are being forced to garnish wages, income taxes, or even pensions just to pay their arrears to the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, right now, there are countless elders living on fixed incomes, and it is difficult for many of them to make ends meet.

In the NWT, over half the population is Indigenous, and the majority of them live in small communities. Anyone who has lived in or even visited a small community understands there is a significant financial hardship in small communities in addition to social and mental health issues, emotional and substance abuse and much more.

Mr. Speaker, many of the elders are retirees and have contributed financially to the territory's economy. In my eyes, the system has failed these individuals as they have fallen through the cracks. I have spoken to several elders throughout my constituency, and they have all told me that it is difficult for them to make ends meet given the high cost of living and the increasing prices of fuel and utilities especially with the recent NTPC power rate increase. This is a heavy burden, especially for many people within the fly-in communities whose electricity is powered by diesel generators.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, there are many elders who are in arrears with the NWT Housing Corporation, some of which date back as far as 20 years, and the arrears are not

decreasing. The elders, who are our knowledge-keepers, are living in some houses which are in dire needs of great repair. Some repairs were done under a mortgage program. Other repairs were done to homes already under homeownership. As a result, many people have been unable to make arrears payments. Mr. Speaker, in some cases elders are left with no choice but to sign refinance agreements and legal action have been taken against them.

Mr. Speaker, elders are being put into difficult situations where, reluctantly, many must agree to have their pensions and taxes garnished just to keep a roof over their heads. And it's not just the elders.

Mr. Speaker, we also have young families, with six small children, whose income tax was recently garnished by the NWT Housing Corporation. And Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of single parents in this situation as well.

The financial stress caused on elders and families to maintain -- can I have unanimous consent to conclude my statement, please.

---Unanimous consent granted

Thank you. The financial stress caused on elders and families to maintain a roof over their head when they are already struggling with the cost of living is unacceptable. Something has to change. I will have questions for the Minister of Housing at the appropriate time. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1158-19(2):
HOUSING

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our residents know that there is nothing more important than having a roof over your head and a clean sane place to call home. I rise today to speak on healthy housing in our communities, and the responsibility of this government to ensure public housing units are safe for families who depend on our government to support, especially when facing unprecedented strains on their pocketbooks.

It goes without saying that expectation for clean and pest-free homes are not outrageous, and any reasonable person would expect such conditions. So now, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about cockroaches.

Cockroaches have been an insect pest for around 4 million years with more than 3,500 species found around the world. These detestable pests, particularly found and living in restaurants, food processing facilities, hotel rooms, nursing homes, measuring anywhere from 1.3 to 1.6 centimetres long. The German cockroach is one of the most common. Although not suited for the cold, the German cockroach has been found in buildings as far north as Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, you don't need to go to Nunavut to find cockroaches. Indeed, you need to look no further than some of our own public housing units here in the Northwest Territories, especially here in Yellowknife, to find the truly deplorable infestation of 'Harry' on our residents. Constituents have contacted me complaining about severe mold, foul mold odours, worms, cockroaches coming through walls, floors, vents, plugs, under the sink, and floorboards. I've seen truly a horrendous video of this infestation submitted by the tenant, and I'm shocked that despite such definitive evidence nothing has been done by the NWT Housing Corporation local housing authority throughout NWT and here in Yellowknife to help families living in a safe and healthy environment. My constituents were brought to tears when they couldn't even cook a Thanksgiving dinner just last weekend due to so many cockroaches in their kitchen and, now, they're pouring into their fridge and kitchen cabinets.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is about health and safety of all public housing tenants and gastroenteritis, dysentery, cholera, typhoid fever, salmonellosis, and E. coli infection. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it is completely unacceptable for any family to live in these conditions living in public housing units and just as unacceptable that their pleas for help have fallen to deaf ears in the last two years. These tenants need immediate help and do not deserve to be brushed off and told that they are not a very clean family.

I've asked the Minister responsible for Housing NWT to act in written correspondence, and now I'm calling on her again to do the right thing and help this poor family and so they can live in a healthy clean unit, free from cockroaches, worms, and to restore their self-worth and confidence in basic humanity and dignity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1159-19(2):
CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF
NUNAKPUT RESIDENTS

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, it's much sadness and grief today for my people of Nunakput as we have been so many loved -- so many loved ones have passed away since our last sitting here at the Assembly. I'd like to pay respects to the families and friends in Nunakput who have lost their loved ones recently.

In Sachs Harbour, well-respected elder Frank Kudlak will be dearly missed by family and friends, and thoughts and prayers for the Kudlak family. In Paulatuk, Mary Green, well-respected elder who will be dearly missed by her family and her long-time husband Tony, and prayers go out for Tony, Tony Green and the family. In Tuktoyaktuk, Josh Gruben. Thoughts and prayers out to his wife Roberta, Sharon -- his mother Sharon and his brother Justin and their children. Christian Mangelana, thoughts and prayers go out to Dawn, his mother Dawn, grandparents, Catharine and Clarence. Keith Anakeena, thoughts and prayers go to Nancy and Kenny, his grandmother Jean Gruben and the rest of the family, brothers and sisters. Rex Teddy Jr., thoughts and prayers go to Rachel Kevik and his father Rex Sr. D.J. Pokiak, thoughts and prayers go to Darren and Kayla and the Pokiak and Felix family. I lost my uncle Henry Steen, an elder in the community of Tuk, a well-respected elder and one of the smartest guys I've known in regards to technology, and he will be sadly missed. My nephew Morgan Wilhagen passed away this summer. Thoughts and prayers go out to my sister and to all her family.

We are deeply saddened for these losses, and I'd like to pass on to the families our prayers and love and may the All Mighty God have mercy on us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nunakput. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and region at this time. Members' statements. Member for Nahendah.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1160-19(2):
EULOGY FOR GEORGE JOORIS

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, George A. P. Jooris was born on the 15th of June 1951 to Daniel

and Jeanine Jooris. He passed away on January 29th, 2022, in Fort Liard.

George left Luxemburg as a young man to see the world and leave his mark upon it. This was the same way he had an impact on the residents of Fort Liard's lives. George's parents had instilled with him the values such as open-mindedness, kindness, care, and love towards his peers. Although some did not understand it and considered it a sign of weakness, George considered it as his strength and a brand of his family even when he tried to hide it behind his gruff character.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to use some of Koty Loe, words that were shared at his funeral: I first met George when I was a young man. I remembered George's accent that I only heard in movies. In true George fashion, when he spoke to people it was not as a child but as a person. People remembered having very interesting conversations with him. Even though they didn't always agree, his perspective on things were very enlightening.

Mr. Speaker, George first met his love of his life Shirley in 1989 at the Fort Liard Northern store, and they've been together ever since. George married Shirley in 1995 during a ceremony at Whistle's Landing, an event which people still remember as if it were yesterday. They built two homes and have cared for and raised three strong, intelligent boys together - Jason, Liam, and the three boys nicknamed as Bah. When speaking to other youth, remembered him fondly.

George spent a lot of time on land around the Fort Nelson First Nation's territory, especially Burke and Needlay families during his time there, and he gained the nickname George Needlay.

George was an established welder by trade and worked for several years in the ENR warehouse managing their supplies. He was always very politically active in local matters, as those of us who remember him well can attest to. He held firm to his principles throughout his life and defended them in the same manner, a trait which we could all benefit from. George named his big grey welding truck Big Bertha after his grandmother. She was a tiny little lady, but she got louder and threw her weight around enough that everybody around her acknowledged her authority. He thought that was very funny.

Mr. Speaker, George had touched many people's lives everywhere he had been and will be remembered well by especially those in Fort Nelson and Fort Liard. He will be

especially missed by those of us whose life he has managed to influence during his time among us. Rest well on your journey, George.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nahendah. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and community at this time. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Hay River North.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Minister of Finance, I would like to welcome the UNW executive to the House today. We have Ms. Gayla Thunstrom, the UNW president; Melvin Larocque, 1st vice-president; Josée-Anne Spirito, 2nd vice-president; Brad Brake, equity vice-president; Kevin Butt, regional vice-president North Great Slave; Randy Thompson, regional vice-president Sombaa Ké; Kenzie MacDonald, regional vice-president Beaufort Delta-Sahtu; Lauraine Armstrong, regional vice-president Fort Smith; Jeff Groenewegen, regional vice-president Hay River; Craig Black, regional vice-president Kimberlite; Geraldine Penney, Local 345 vice-president. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River North. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Quyananni, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Kenzie MacDonald who is a constituent of mine for Inuvik Boot Lake. Welcome. Quyananni.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to welcome Kim Bailey. She's the Union of Northern Workers director of finance. She lives in Frame Lake. Welcome to the House, Kim, and welcome to the rest of your team as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Brenda Bernhardt. She is my new constituency assistant for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Thank you.

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

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize my constituent Melvin Larocque, who is the UNW 1st vice-president, as well as the rest of the UNW. I thank the Minister of Justice for taking on that task because I was also asked to introduce them as well. So welcome them all to the gallery. Thank you.

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

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a constituent, Mr. Jeff Groenewegen from Hay River. And also a past constituent, Mr. Melvin Larocque. Welcome to today's proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nahendah.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize two former constituents from my riding. Rebecca Jumbo, I met her in 1992 when I moved into the Nahendah riding. She has now moved to Yellowknife, and her son, Ace Jumbo Verdock, who is one of our pages. So welcome to our Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Colleagues, please draw your attention to the presence of Mr. Floyd Powder in the gallery today. Mr. Powder is a retired and long-serving member of the Canadian Armed Forces who served our country both in Canada and overseas. Mr. Powder is an Indigenous northerner from Fort Smith and a keen observer of the Legislative Assembly. Welcome, Mr. Powder. Thank you for your service and for making us proud as northerners.

---Applause.

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome, everyone. If we have missed anyone in the gallery, welcome to the Chamber, and I hope you are enjoying the proceedings. It is always nice to have an audience with us.

Acknowledgements. Oral questions. Member for Hay River South.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 1155-19(2):
DREDGING IN HAY RIVER

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the questions I have are for the Minister of Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, every spring the issue of dredging in Hay River is discussed, more so now due to the extensive flooding that took place in Hay River this year. We have watched vessels being pulled off sandbars all summer which adds up to a financial and safety cost.

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister confirm what the financial cost has been to MTS due to flooding in Hay River this year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after each MTS sailing season, we conduct an end of season review. So we looked at a number of things, like the full impact of factors that's influencing the season, the associated costs can only be understood once all the invoices are received once we have completed our review. This analysis is typically completed prior to the end of December. Mr. Speaker, I can commit to providing information to the Member as well as the committee once I've had to review the analysis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to receiving that information from the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister confirm what impact silt buildup in the Hay River harbour had on MTS's shipping season; were there delays? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a successful sailing season is dependent on many factors, including some that are beyond our control. The factors that influence its success are complex and interconnected. Adjusting sailing departures and schedules are a reality for shipping industry. Silt buildup will be number one factor that will be assessed during the end of our season review. Other factors we will need to include, but may not be limited to, high and low water, barges that washed out at the channel during the spring flooding, the deployment of buoys and weather. At the end of August, MTS barges became stranded in the channel, as the Member had pointed out when I was visiting Hay River during the flood season, which was leading into the Great Slave Lake and had to be towed back to the channel to the terminal, lightened in order to get them out of the harbour.

Mr. Speaker, we know that even a delay in a few days at the front end can result in longer delays back at the end as the barges move north. And encountering changing weather resulting in longer delays to get communities that are requiring a resupply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister confirm what, if any, discussions have taken place with the federal government on the issue of dredging the Hay River harbour? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pursuing the issue with the federal government. So Canada's responsible for the harbour, and I addressed this issue as recently as this week, both to the federal Ministers of Transportation and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Senior officials from the department have also recently discussed this with senior officials from Transport Canada and brought this attention to the matter. I'm also working with MP McLeod in addressing the need for dredging of the Hay River harbour.

Mr. Speaker, our goal is to ensure that the federal government understands the serious nature of this issue, as we do too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now for the million dollar -- 10 million or \$20 million question. Mr. Speaker, the harbour is critical to Hay River and has been critical to Hay River for a number of years. Will the Minister confirm if her department, absent any federal financial assistance, has identified internal funding to dredge the Hay River harbour? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The responsibility for dredging Hay River harbour lies within the federal government. However, given the importance of the Hay River harbour, and the urgency to restore it, we are willing to lead the work if ongoing federal funding is provided. We also continue to address this matter with its urgency with our federal partners and we look forward to looking for a solution, because I know this is very important to the community. Not only that, it's very important for some of the communities up the valley. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1156-19(2):
TAR SANDS DISCHARGE

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My question is for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources about the development of regulations for discharges from the Alberta tar sands.

Can the Minister tell us whether the two consultants hired by his department to provide advice on tar sands wastewater treatment and toxicity have been put to work yet, and if so, whether there are any preliminary observations or recommendations? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Alberta has committed to sharing draft reports to fulfill the technical information gaps with the GNWT as part of the information share on our bilateral water management agreement, and I can tell the House here while I was in Whitehorse, I had the opportunity to had meet with the Minister and the deputy Minister, and they did reconfirm that they would get that information to us. Presently we have not received any of the technical reports to date and anticipate receiving the first report by late October. Once we do that, we can work with the committee to get that information to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. I guess I'd hoped that the consultants would have been put to work by now but maybe we have to wait for those reports.

You know, we're downstream of this mess. There's a lot at stake for us in terms of water quality, aquatic life, and human health. Can the Minister tell us what the timetable is for developing regulations to allow the discharge of tailings wastewater into the Athabasca River system upstream of the Northwest Territories? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, both the Alberta government and the federal government are considering the development of regulations for the safe discharge of treated oil sand water tailings -- or tailings water to the Athabasca River. The Alberta government is conducting scientific studies which could be used to support the development regulations that would outline requirements for the release of treated oil sand mine effluent to surface

waters. Regulatory guidance could be developed by as early as 2023.

The federal government is also working to develop regulations under the Fisheries Act for oil sands mining effluents which will include quality standards and reporting requirements. Final regulations will be developed as of 2025.

So those two, the province of Alberta and the federal government, are working on those things right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. We got two freight trains coming towards us so I'll look forward to some kind of updates. And earlier today I thanked the Minister for the confidential update he provided to Regular MLAs; that's helpful, but there's nothing really in terms of clear public information on what's going on. There's also a lack of a principled position from our government on these proposed discharges.

Can the Minister tell us whether there is a plan to provide regular updates to NWT residents about potential discharges from the Alberta tar sands and regulations to allow this to happen? So some public information. Is there a schedule, a plan to do that, Mr. Speaker? Mahsi.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said previously in this House, GNWT, I repeat, the GNWT is not supportive of a plan to release treated tailing waters from the oil sands to the Athabasca River unless we have information, data, and science that demonstrate that we can be -- this can be done safely and that it's not affecting ecological integrity of the shared water.

Mr. Speaker, through the Alberta/NWT Bilateral Water Management Agreement, ENR has regular communications with the Alberta government about the work that is underway on regulation development. Senior Alberta and GNWT officials are meeting regularly. Regular meeting updates with the Alberta office of the chief scientists are occurring as part of the bilateral management committee. The Alberta government -- the Alberta office of the chief scientist is lead on the Alberta science -- or sorry, is the lead of the oil sand mine water science team which has developed work plans and is reviewing technical reports to fulfill technical information gaps that could support regulation development. ENR regularly shares updates with the water strategic Indigenous steering committee. The department shall share on an update with Indigenous governments, council secretariat in August of

2022. ENR's shared an update with the standing committee on September 19th, 2022.

As information received, the GNWT will consider a thorough assessment of the technical reports prepared by Alberta to address the knowledge gaps as well as proposed regulations to ensure that the interests of NWT residents are well represented. 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, all that information about the process. But, can he just look at establishing a web page on that ENR website where this kind of information could be provided to the public?

So the discharge of tar sands tailings, or at least treated wastewater, is inevitable; it's going to happen either through treatment or there's going to be an accident. All of this will likely lead to significant public concern on the part of NWT residents regarding any potential discharges.

So can the Minister tell us whether his department has considered whether tar sands discharges might have a significant adverse impact on the environment or might be a cause of public concern and thus trigger an environmental assessment under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT will complete a thorough assessment of the technical reports prepared to address the knowledge gap as well as propose regulations to ensure that the interests of the NWT residents are well represented. Our Bilateral Water Management Agreement with Alberta includes information sharing, provisions, and water monitoring commitments, triggers and objectives that will provide an early warning system of change. The oil sands development and associated regulations and approval are assessed through Alberta and sometimes Canada's regulatory systems. The GNWT will and does participate in these regulatory process, including environmental assessment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1157-19(2):
HOMELESSNESS

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Housing has been directed to provide effective housing supports for the people most in need. And Mr. Speaker, the GNWT has been talking about the Homelessness Strategic Action Plan since 2018. Homelessness is so important in our territory that I think it's one of the few things that all 19 of us actually agree on is something that we need to be focused on.

So can the Minister provide the status of the development of the Homelessness Strategic Action Plan? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Minister responsible for Housing NWT.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Member for this question. This strategic plan has been in the works for quite some time now.

What the department has discovered is that it needs an all-of-government approach. It's not only a housing crisis. We are actually working with the Department of Health and Education and Justice, as well too, to formally look at what the strategy is going to look like and also where is the funding going to come from. Is this going to be a standalone department? Those decisions are being spoken about at the deputy minister's level. And I can provide Standing Committee with a further update if that's required, or requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear that it is a cross-departmental approach; however, that just feels as another way to, you know, avoid actually providing us with any of the deliverables because other times when we're looking for things it's often well, that's not my responsibility, that's the "X" Minister's responsibility. So I kind of feel at times we get both answers when it's convenient for Cabinet.

Can the Minister explain how long the department has been working on this plan and who they have engaged? Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And yes, this plan is very complex as well and looking at the stakeholders we did involve throughout the Northwest Territories, there is a quite large list of people who have been involved in the process as well. I don't have that information in front of me. I can provide that to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I get tired at times about hearing that

things are coming soon or, you know, that the majority of people like things. In the engineering world, these are not numbers or amounts that are quantifiable.

So can the Minister provide a date for when the Homelessness Strategic Action Plan will be finalized and what funding will be made available to implement the homelessness solutions, such as the tiny house initiatives that my colleague from Thebacha is always very keen on. Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Assembly is eager to hear a date on when this strategy would be available. We are also looking at the process that we do have to follow within this Legislative Assembly. The expected date I'm looking at is April 1st of 2023 to just present this homelessness strategy with what we were able to provide up to this date, what we're able to collaborate with, with the Northwest Territories and with my colleagues as well too.

The other part to this strategy is it does not come with any funding. I don't know where the funding is going to come from. That is a totally different conversation to be having. But the priority is to get the strategy out by the end of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot to unpack in that one. First of all, I don't even know what I tell people that don't have a home as of October 2022 that they can wait until April 1st to find out what's happening for them. So I just find that to be crazy, in my opinion, considering this was the very first thing that we talked about needed to be done, was housing. And when we hear other Ministers constantly saying well, we can't hire people because there's no housing, I sit here and go how is the homelessness strategy not coming out until the last year of our Assembly. It's mind blowing.

So can the Minister describe what homelessness prevention strategies and actions are being implemented now? What's going to happen to Inuvik when there's no operator there for the shelter this winter? Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the portfolio, I am open to be working with Members. And looking at what we have done with the portfolio, we're looking at working with the renewal that we have just completed and also a 90-unit delivery that is coming to the Northwest Territories. We've

had several engagements with Indigenous groups from homelessness, to the homelessness strategy to putting units on the ground, to looking at negotiated contracts, and looking at employment at the ground level, making sure that the communities are benefitting from housing being rolled out in our communities as well too.

And also just looking at the number of programs that we do have, we don't have enough housing in the Northwest Territories to house every single person. That is the reality. We have a 90-unit housing delivery that we have not seen in four decades for the Northwest Territories. And this is significant work that has been done within Housing NWT to change our approach with the federal government to be working more in conjunction with the federal government and with the Northwest Territories and with the Indigenous groups as well too.

For the Inuvik warming shelter, it is hard and challenging right now to find nonprofit organizations that are willing to come forward and wanting to work with us. There was a number of issues that have been identified. But Housing is working with those communities and with those nonprofit organizations as well too. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1158-19(2):
GRADE 12 EDUCATION LEVELS

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement spoke of the problems with actual grade levels of the graduates, the lack of information available to determine actual grade levels of these graduates. Mr. Speaker, information regarding actual grade levels will help education authorities to determine next steps to remedy these problems.

Can the education Minister let us know if these statistics are being collected and what are the findings? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Deh Cho. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Data collection has been identified as an issue by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment as well as by the Office of the Auditor General in their 2019 review of education in the Northwest Territories. And so we're definitely well aware of the situation and, in the past number of

years, have taken steps to remedy it. Every year I table a document in this House, accountability framework, which has information about the results from all of the different education bodies in the Northwest Territories. We produce a JK-12 education system performance measure technical report. This was held up because of Covid but I've tabled one previously. The draft of the next one just came across my desk. So the data is out there. And the findings, I think the Member's probably aware of the findings. I think we're all well aware of the findings.

In the Northwest Territories, we have lower graduation rates than the rest of Canada. And those differ between Yellowknife, the regional centres, and small communities. And small communities, the outcomes are the worst of those three groups.

So we have the data. We have much of the data. But we don't have all of the data at our fingertips. And that's one of the issues that we face, is that the data is in the possession -- it's effectively owned by the education bodies, not by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. And so we aren't as nimble with it as perhaps we could otherwise be. Thank you.

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, small communities are the most vulnerable in regards to receiving a good education to be able to get a good job and a better future for our youth.

Can the Minister commit to ensuring small communities will receive improved education content in their curriculum? Mahsi.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, and I've been doing my best to live up to that commitment. As the Members know, we've recently announced that we are transitioning from using primarily Alberta's curriculum to adopting and adapting the curriculum from British Columbia. And we wouldn't do that if we didn't think that it would help.

British Columbia's curriculum allows for more integration of local culture, local knowledge. And we know that when students are familiar with what they're being taught, there's better educational outcome. So we connect their real lives to what they're learning and make education relevant, there will be better outcomes. And while we have this opportunity to adapt this curriculum, we're going to make sure that we do make it relevant. So we have an amazing opportunity here, and we are definitely going to capitalize on it.

And one thing I'll mention as well is that the British Columbia curriculum, it works well with small multigrade schools. And so that's one of the issues we have across the territory, is we have a number of schools where there are teachers teaching to two or three or four different grades at a time. And this curriculum will better support teachers and students in those situations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. And Mahsi to the Minister for the answer.

Mr. Speaker, small communities used to have teachers assigned for every grade. Somehow this has changed during the course of our education journey, and now most teachers are teaching a wide array of grades. I don't believe they have the training for this type of situation since there are many grade levels.

Can the Minister commit to reviewing these situations in our small community schools with the intent of providing remedies to providing quality education in the small communities? Mahsi.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And this is another issue that we are well aware of and are taking steps to remedy it. There are some schools where there is one teacher, and that's also the principal. And so we're developing training for individuals in those situations so that they can better handle those schools because we recognize that it is an issue. And that will be done in conjunction with the rollout of the British Columbia curriculum that we are adapting. So, yes, that plan is underway. We recognize its importance, and we are doing that work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. And mahsi to the Minister for that.

Mr. Speaker, the North needs leaders that will clear a path for the education of our youth to be able to take over from us eventually. We need total education reform for our small communities, and we need to start now. We're losing many of our youth to substance abuse, peer pressures, and many are staying in the communities with no hope for a future.

Mr. Speaker, I live in a small community, and I see this every day. I am saddened by what I see and also angered at the people that can make change but are not doing their jobs.

Can the Minister commit to the small communities that the department will do everything in their power to improve the

education systems for the betterment of our youth? Mahsi.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can make that commitment; that's what we do every day. That's why I had dark hair when I started this, and I have gray hair now, because this is a focus of my life. The Member said that, you know, we're not doing our job. This is all I do. Yesterday I was here 14 hours in this building with no breaks working on the education system. So there's a lot of dedicated people who are focusing on this. It's not an issue government can solve alone. It's a community issue. It's a family issue. We need kids in school. We need kids prepared to go to school. There's obviously a lot that government can do. You know, we have a major responsibility, and we owe it to the students and the families and the people of the territory to carry out that responsibility. But we can't do it alone. But we are working hard, and I can commit that we will continue to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION 1159-19(2):
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE
PREVENTION

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

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health. And, you know, I hear the Minister when she -- like, with her Minister's statement on suicide, my question -- my Member's statement, this is not something that we haven't talked about in this House. But with the recent stats, you know, that's a significant jump. And we know that we've been going through a pandemic and we know things got worse. And we on this side of the House, and I'm sure you as well, know that we've gone through mental -- like, everybody's having mental health crises right now, addictions crises. And with these stats, I'm just wondering how the department -- I know when an initial suicide happens, there's all this team that comes in and supports the community. But how are they using this stat to prioritize assistance to these communities that are showing the higher rates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question. As the Member said, we have a crisis response team that goes into a community for immediate help.

Following that, we take the lead of the community to tell us what they want. Sometimes they don't want additional counselling support. Sometimes what they want is an inspirational speaker. That was recently the case in Tuktoyaktuk. And there is a fund, a suicide -- community suicide prevention fund available to communities to identify what kind of activities we'll provide for prevention and for them to apply for.

One of the most promising things that I see on this front in the Beaufort Delta is the Inuvialuit suicide prevention strategy which, in English, is called Moving Forward, Healing Together. That lays out a comprehensive vision of what a suicide prevention strategy should look like in the ISR, and it invites the GNWT to be partners in the implementation of that strategy. And we are very keen to work with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to implement their suicide prevention strategy.

I've mentioned a number of other -- if people don't want to engage in a formal way, a number of other ways to reach out for help, including using the help lines, making a same-day appointment for community counselling, going to hospital if the need is imminent, or calling 9-1-1. So there are a suite of actions that are available. I feel that what we need to understand better is how to help the people in the group most affected by suicide according to the most recent statistics. We need to know how to reach them more effectively in order to offer them help. Thank you.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Minister for that. So looking at what you just said goes into -- kind of leads me into my next question is what prevention programs does Health have to target men and younger adults -- younger adult age groups with regards to depression and suicide at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the question. At this time, we -- of course, youth have the child and youth counsellors in the school. There are three at the East Three School. My understanding is they are able to take same-day walk-in appointments. And so certainly for the group that is still accessing school, they could access those services.

We have a campaign called My Voice, My Choice in which we've been offering subscription boxes on topics that youth have identified as important to them. As it turns out, the September box was about suicide and self-harm. We've had excellent uptake on that. And, in fact, we've put the resources online

now so that people don't necessarily have to wait for a box to be made available to them; they can grab the information right off of the computer.

You know, the other things that I mentioned in my first answer are, of course, available to youth, including the kids help line, which as well as being a phone number, youth can text. They can make use of some of the e-mental health strategies like -- or apps like the Breathing Room app. The community counselling program is available to them. So I feel that there are a good number of supports available.

And as I said in my last answer, I'm interested in connecting with the Member about how we can involve young men who are in that most at-risk range, 20 to 29, to be more interested in what we have to offer. Thank you.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, I hear the Minister when she answers with the CYCs. You know, I think that program, from what I've been hearing, it is a program that works except that when the students are in crisis, there's not enough of them. When they want -- when students are wanting help, in that crisis mode, they want help now. And what I've heard is that our CYC, especially in the Inuvik school, is busy. Like, she's -- they're booked. They're booked. And when a person is in crisis, I know the department tries to accommodate and help and, you know, everybody -- but it's -- I think that's the thing is, is they need ongoing.

But my question to the Minister is -- and I mentioned this two years ago in 2020 and I don't know if you were the Minister at that time but you may have been. It might have been Minister Archie. But, you know, we have programs like the ASIST. And I'm not a youth, but I know when I was struggling as a youth, I would talk to my peers. I didn't want to talk to adults. I didn't want to talk to anybody. I talked to my peers. I talked to, you know, my partner or, you know, those types of things. So I'm just wondering if the department has looked at providing the ASIST training or a youth component training to the schools for youth so that they can be equipped with the tools on how to support somebody that discloses depression or discloses that they're suicidal or discloses that they have an addiction. So I'm just wondering if that's something that the department will look into because this is prevention too, you know. If we start younger, then we may prevent deaths later and suicides. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Yes, thank you. I appreciate the recommendation that we start

earlier on prevention and that the ASIST program may be a good place to do that so that their peers are more knowledgeable about helping peers. So I certainly am prepared to have a conversation with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about what is offered now and whether it's possible to increase those offerings.

As I've said before, we have a suicide prevention fund. The last I heard it was not all spent. And communities decide what they want, whether it's suicide prevention training, which I know some communities have taken up, or whether it is an inspirational speaker. So I appreciate the suggestion, and I will follow it up. Thank you.

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

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary is, you know, you -- we see that the risks of suicide, depression, our dropout rates are higher in the small communities. We know that we hear about -- like, kids with addictions at a way younger age in the small communities that's -- because there's nothing to do. We're not providing with prevention tools. And I mentioned this to the Minister before is we don't have nurses in the community that are focusing on health promotion, health prevention. And I think that we need to start looking at different ways of doing business in our health prevention and especially in the small communities. You know, we have public health nurses, community health nurses, home care nurses in our bigger centres. But I think if we start looking at focusing on hiring a nurse, we could have a new grad. I went into being public health pretty much out of school, you know. So it's not something that you need to have all this emergency trauma training. You could go into the communities and be hired into your community and work with the students and work with the elders. You already know them. And this takes the time -- they're focused on health promotion, health prevention. Leave the chins to be working on the -- you know, the emergency nursing and clinics and things like that that they're trained for, just like we do in the regional centres. And I think maybe if we start focusing more on prevention that maybe we can start to turn a corner. And I'm just wondering if the Minister will commit to even entertaining this idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, I appreciate the question. As I said in my statement, I feel that we have turned a corner into labelling this issue a crisis

because it will draw extra focus and attention to the issues. And to that end, I have engaged my Cabinet colleagues to see whether we can develop a whole-of-government approach to the issue of suicide. So that would include things like the training that the Member spoke about in the schools, recreational opportunities which would be offered through my colleague the Minister of MACA.

Mental health and wellness is not only a Department of Health and Social Services issue. It really does require a cross-department approach to look at the kinds of ideas that the Member has provided.

I just want to say in closing that the Department of Health and Social Services assisted in sponsoring the training of the Dene Wellness Warriors at Rhodes College in BC. And there is an addiction and aftercare fund which provides money to hire a counsellor. This counsellor could have suicide prevention as his or her focus. So that's something that communities might want to consider looking at especially if they don't have other mental health resources that are on site. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 1160-19(2):
HOUSING NWT ARREARS AND
GARNISHING WAGES

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Mr. Speaker, some elders owe \$100,000 or more. There is no way -- we know that there is no way in their lifetime they will ever be able to pay back this debt.

So Mr. Speaker, why is the Minister of Housing penalizing elders with a financial burden that is unrealistic to pay back within their lifetime? Does the Housing NWT consider the financial burden it puts on our elders? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Monfwi. Minister responsible for Housing NWT.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Member for the question as well too because this mortgage program is quite an old program. It was a program that CMHC had engaged in with Housing Corporation at that time. These files are quite dated, and the collection on them is quite huge. We have 247 mortgage files throughout the Northwest Territories, and the collection number on them is quite significant as well too.

These files are probably about -- I want to say approximately about 15 to 20 years old. And we are working with the outstanding of these files as well too. But we do work very closely with the clients as well. The other thing that I have realized with homeownership is it's very hard for the client to maintain their own home and looking at structural improvements that are needed over a certain amount of time which ends up in a lot of damages over a period of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I hear from constituents in my riding how they must resort to garnishing the little income they receive in order to pay for their housing. In some cases, people with children -- especially with children are applying for Jordan's Principle to pay back Housing Corporation arrears.

Does the Housing Corporation consider the means a client has to pay back their debts? How can the Housing or GNWT collect Jordan's Principle payments from a client when that funding is supposed to be used for social, health, and education supports, not to prevent homelessness? Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for the question as well too, that when we're looking at garnishees for the Northwest Territories, this is a long -- a long process. And looking at the garnishing, that is our last resort in attempts to recovering that funding that is needed to be paid back to Housing NWT. And Jordan's Principle, I don't want to comment on that program as it's not a territorial program. I don't approve or deny applications so I'm not too familiar with their criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, elders are on fixed income. Can the Minister explain what type of integrated and personalized support the NWT Housing provides for elders and for others to ensure that they can remain in their homes without living in poverty? Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for the question. Housing NWT is a social program. We don't look at the high market rent in each of the smaller communities and the larger centres. We're severely subsidized to house people throughout the Northwest Territories. And looking at the elders and the fixed income, if the Member has some issues within her riding I'd like to take a look at those files as well too and further have those discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Mr. Speaker, that's good information. I know that the housing is -- public units are social programs. And there are some people that are paying max rent. It is a social program. And some is in deplorable condition, and they are paying \$1,500 a month. And that is not part of a subsidized program. If it was a subsidized program, it would be less than that, people living on fixed income.

Mr. Speaker, it's not just my region that I am talking about. It's all over the Northwest Territories, especially in small communities, that I am advocating for too as well. So Mr. Speaker, many elders in the NWT still care for children and grandchildren. Although they are elders, they may still care for many family members as well, and this comes at a financial cost.

Mr. Speaker, how is the Minister of Housing considering the financial burden on elders who still need to care for children, grandchildren, or other family members? Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Member for the question as well too. And looking at the rent that we are charging that is according to our rental rates throughout the Northwest Territories, I just wanted to comment on it further that we don't -- to operate these units, it's 25,000 -- this number was given to me about -- it was a number provided ten years ago. And looking at the increase of fuel, the increase of power, I don't have that accurate number in front of me. But these units are severely subsidized. I really want to emphasize on that. And if we're looking at the \$1,500 per month for the client that the Member had mentioned, I would like to take a look at that too and further provide an explanation of how we got to that number.

And also the Member had also spoken about the children, the grandchildren, the grandparents, the elders. We do have an overcrowding issue throughout the Northwest Territories and mainly in the smaller communities as well. With the response on that, we are doing a complete policy review of all of Housing's policies as well, and we have just entered into a renewal as well too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1161-19(2):
HOUSING

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my Member's statement earlier today, I have been advocating for my constituents in housing, Yellowknife public housing units, that are suffering from an inexcusable living condition caused by an acute infestation of cockroaches. I will share the public housing names later with the Minister.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of the significant infestation of cockroaches, insects, pests, and vermin in privately managed public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Housing NWT is aware of the situation. And we are working with the landlord of the building to address the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister think it is acceptable for public housing tenants to live in conditions where swarms of cockroaches crawl over the walls, floors, ceiling, contaminate foods and water, and especially when you go to bed at night they crawl onto you. Is this acceptable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My personal opinion is not appropriate when addressing these issues. But I do work with the people and the residents of the Northwest Territories. And as a Minister, I've travelled quite significantly throughout the territory. I've been to most of the communities about twice within my term. In result of that, we are looking at the renewal that has already been established and the policy changes as well too to further address these issues as well.

And also I just wanted to comment that Housing does conduct a condition rating annually on our public housing units. If the Member is referencing a unit here in Yellowknife, I'd have to further look into that. I'd have to follow up with the landlord. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What action have the NWT Housing Corporation done to remedy the living condition of these tenants throughout the Northwest Territories and here in Yellowknife?

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing organization is working

with the landlord to have a professional pest control consultant to address the situation. They've also provided tenant education on things that they can do to help prevent their reinfestation. But also there's a lot more communication happening between the tenants and the local housing authorities that I would like to have the tenants notify the local housing authorities or Housing when these issues surface, I guess. And so we don't have to wait until we're looking at a major infestation, I would like to address this issue immediately and not have that carried over until we are looking at an emergency response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is an emergency. The unit that these guys are living in is known to have cockroaches and bugs and worms for a long time.

So will the Minister commit to moving the affected families immediately to a clean and safe housing unit and apologize to the tenants for having to tolerate intolerable living conditions for the last two years? This is not just a one-time thing. It happened over and over. They call housing authority. Nothing happens. So I'd like to -- thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Housing NWT deals with a number of issues throughout the Northwest Territories that we need to be working with our tenant more closely on. The LHO has been in contact with the tenant. They have not abandoned this issue. They haven't been -- they have been in constant communication. And as of today, we do not have a unit that is available. We have a very low vacancy rate here in Yellowknife. And like I had said before, that we will be following up with the landlord. We do depend on those lease agreements here in Yellowknife in order for us to address the housing crisis here in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1162-19(2):
DREDGING IN HAY RIVER

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm hearing the same political rhetoric on dredging. And now reading between the lines, the Minister may be telling me if we expect federal support, then we may need a new federal government. Let's hope

they are listening because it's a continued viable existence of the community of Hay River I'm talking about.

So Mr. Speaker, there will be a requirement to receive federal approval to dredge. Has the department asked and received that approval from the federal government, or has an application even been made? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct, we are looking at the dredging in Hay River. So I do want to mention that in 2020, the Department of Infrastructure submitted a proposal for federal funding to partially dredge and restore the Hay River harbour but it was not approved. The request for funding over three years to undertake initial mechanical support, mechanical spot dredging only in the most heaviest silted areas of Hay River harbour, within the East Channel and at the harbour's mouth, as determined from our operations.

Mr. Speaker, the focus was on restoring navigability to facilitate safe passage of vessels including those of Canadian Coast Guard, the tugs, the barges of MTS, and commercial fishing vessels. So the request was not intended to cover the more extensive dredging that is required to restore the entire harbour to fully operating draft and safe navigability. So the extent of which can only be determined with regular bathymetric surveys.

Mr. Speaker, once the restoration is complete, an ongoing dredging program should be reestablished to be able to resolve long-term issue. This would also require base funding, long-term commitment from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister confirm if any bathymetry or hydrographic mapping of the Hay River harbour has been completed to determine the extent of dredging required? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the most recent bathymetric assessment of the harbour was completed by the Department of Public Works and Government Services Canada at the request of coast guard in 2016. So in recent light of the events at the age of the most recent bathymetric assessment, a more recent bathymetric assessment will need to be obtained in order to do the rest of the work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister have any preliminary costs to dredge the Hay River Harbour? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has not identified any cost to dredge the Hay River harbour, nor assessed if timing influences that cost. When we did the proposal in 26 [sic], there was a number of factors involved, it's now 2022, so we need to look at the difference.

So I just want to note so the first step in assessing the cost for the dredging is to quantify the amount of location and location of the material to be removed. So our recent correspondence and discussions with the federal officials have identified the importance of starting a study to be able to obtain this information. I do want to note that, you know, Infrastructure is aware of the technical, legal, procedural, and environmental consideration that are complexities associated with dredging the harbour. As the federal government is responsible for the harbour under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act, they would also need to be involved in identifying the complexities and options that are available for dredging. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister kind of answered some of the last question I had here. But there are complexities. And I'd just like to know, you know, when we talk about dredging, we're talking about methods; we're talking about engineering; we're talking about permitting; we're talking about equipment; we're talking about safety; we're talking about, you know, the area, the depth of the water; the aquatic life, mitigation, incremental weather, and costs. So what portion of those complexities has the department looked at and are they actioning any plans on any of those areas? Thank you.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member pointed out, the department is aware of the technical, legal, procedural, environmental, and the list goes on for the type of work that needs to be done to be able to dredge the Hay River harbour. It is complex. And I also mentioned that we need to work with the federal government to be able to look at some options that are available.

I do want to note, Mr. Speaker, that based on the information that was provided to

Infrastructure, as of 2016, there was approximately a hundred thousand cubic metres of mud and silt at the site. So, I mean, you look at the complexities that's a lot of silt, which exceeded established grade requirements. So at this time, it was estimated that at least half of this amount should be removed to be able to avoid any further impending navigations of the harbour.

I do want to also note that, you know, the importance of continuing to lobby the federal government to be able to stress the importance of this to Hay River. Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier in my first set of questions from the Member the importance of trying to get some of our supplies up the river so -- I know you're telling me to move on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1163-19(2): HOMELESSNESS

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate you cutting down the long answers as many of our Members do want to actually ask questions.

According to the Homelessness Hub, a Canadian homelessness observation group, it is estimated that the total number of people experiencing homelessness in Yellowknife was roughly 312 in 2021. In looking into this issue, it's not clear whether or not this data is actually collected and tracked by the GNWT or the department.

So can the Minister of Housing report on how many people in the NWT are homeless today and how is that number determined? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Minister responsible for Housing NWT and Homelessness.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't provided an advanced notice of the questions. I don't have those numbers in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. NOKLEBY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've stopped trying to make them actually look good and know their portfolios when they don't so I don't provide questions ahead of time anymore.

How quickly will the 312 homeless people, if that's actually the number, in Yellowknife move into housing options as a result of the GNWT's homelessness strategy? And like I'd

like to say, I'm not going to settle down as the Minister asked me to after the last round of questions. I'm passionate about our homelessness situation and it's disturbing to me that the Minister does not want to answer questions on this topic. Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will follow up with the Member. Thank you.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain what new housing supports have been established in the life of this Assembly under her ministerialship for homeless people? Considering we're now down a shelter, I kind of wonder where this progress is done and what the Minister's been doing for the last three years. Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will follow up with the Member. And I'd like to take notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Taken as notice.

Colleagues, our time for oral questions has expired, even though we have three more of a waiting list, but tomorrow's another day. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have returns to all outstanding written questions on the order paper.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 42-19(2): NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS

Written Question 42-19(2) asked by the Member for Great Slave on May 26th, 2022, to the Premier regarding negotiated contracts.

The Member asked for a list of all negotiated contracts awarded by or completed for the Government of the Northwest Territories in the 19th Legislative Assembly. This request included information for multi-year contracts and contract not yet completed.

The Member also asked for any guidelines or other directions that the Executive Council has established to implement the Policy.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 43-19(2): DELIVERING EQUITABLE EDUCATION SERVICES TO SMALL COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Written Question 43-19(2) asked by the Member for Monfwi on June 1st, 2022, to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding delivering equitable education services to small communities in the Northwest Territories.

- 1) How does the Department of Education, Culture and Employment identify what is required to provide equitable access to quality education for all students in the Northwest Territories and provide the approach chosen and identify the applicable policy documents?

Though the Department of Education, Culture and Employment does not deliver services directly to students, it is responsible for ensuring equitable access to education programs and services that meet the highest possible standards and that reflect NWT cultures. The Education Act establishes the foundation for choice of access and participation and inclusion of students and parents. The Education Act is supported by the Ministerial Directive on Inclusive Schooling and its associated funding the School Funding Framework. The Ministerial Directive on Inclusive Schooling ensures:

- That all students have access to quality education programs within a common learning environment in the community in which the student resides.
- That education bodies have direction on how to administer inclusive schooling supports and programming.
- Educators are provided with in-servicing to deliver inclusive schooling supports and programming.
- Financial accountability for inclusive schooling funding.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of inclusive schooling supports and programming.

The Inclusive Schooling Handbook and Guidelines for Inclusive Schooling further detail the requirements for enacting and funding inclusive education programming.

The Financial Administration Act requires the Financial Management Board to develop a Planning and Accountability Framework, of which public agencies, which include education bodies, must comply. Education bodies submit annual Operating Plans and Annual Reports in compliance with this Framework. The implementation of a standardized reporting system improves planning and accountability and provides

information in a consistent and comprehensive way, to support decision-making and ensure transparency for our students, parents, and the residents of the NWT.

2) What actions has the Department of Education, Culture and Employment taken since the 2020 Auditor General report to support schools in small communities and ensure students in the territory have an equitable learning experience, indicating which actions are on hold and delayed, providing the reasons for the status, and indicating the partners involved and the amount spent or planned to be spent by activity?

The Action Plan to Improve Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 Student Outcomes was established in 2020- 2021. To date, ECE has completed six actions that responded to the Report of the Office of the Auditor General to:

- Deliver the two-year pilot of the Certificate of Indigenous Language Revitalization program.
- Provide distance learning opportunities in all NWT small schools through Northern Distance Learning.
- Implement a common job description for JK-12 Support Assistants.
- Update the JK-12 Support Assistants section of the Inclusive Schooling Handbook.
- Report on education outcomes established through the JK-12 Planning and Accountability Framework.
- Complete a five-year evaluation of the Education Renewal Initiative.

The following Actions are currently on-track for completion:

- Modernize the Education Act.
- Offer professional development opportunities for early childhood educators.
- Advance the Mentor Apprentice Program.
- Our Languages Curriculum and Indigenous Languages and Education Handbook.
- JK-12 Curriculum Renewal.
- Develop Northern Studies 20 curricula.

- Implement an online educator certification and credentialing system.
- Review the JK-12 education funding framework.
- Education System Training and Support Plan.
- Develop competency-based educator standards and accountability mechanisms.
- Pilot program to support training for JK-12 Support Assistants.
- Expand Career and Education Advisor program.
- Improve mental health counseling services to children and youth.
- Student Behaviour, Referrals, and Intervention Tracking.

Actions are funded internally from existing divisional budgets. In July 2021, for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, additional funding was identified to support the following actions:

- Implement JK-12 Our Languages Curriculum and Indigenous Languages and Education Handbook.
- Implement a pilot program to support training for certification of Support Assistants.
- Develop greater integration of services for children and youth in the education system.
- Early Development Instrument, Middle Years Development Instrument, and Healthy Behaviour in School-aged Children knowledge mobilization plan.
- Training and supports for small-school principals.
- Training and supports for teachers of multi-grade classrooms.

The following Actions are currently on-hold or delayed:

- The JK-4 Literacy and Numeracy Strategy is on-hold pending JK-12 curriculum renewal, which will have a significant impact on how students are supported in this area.
- Development of greater integration of services through expanding regional capacity is on-hold as the development has been enveloped into the

- advancement of the broader GNWT's focus on Integrated Service Delivery.
- Training and supports for small-school principals are on hold, also pending JK-12 curriculum renewal. Research into best practices to support small school principals has been completed.
 - Training and supports for teachers of multi-grade classrooms is on-hold, also pending curriculum renewal. Research on best practices for Multi-Age Groups has been completed.
 - The Indigenous Language Diploma is delayed as ECE awaits a program proposal from Aurora College that will lead to the implementation of an NWT-based diploma program.
 - Development of an Early Learning Framework and handbook was delayed by COVID-19 and engagement with the system to support development of the 2030 ELCC Strategy and finalized federal agreements. A new version is set to be piloted in 2022-2023.
 - An increase in Indigenous language scholarships is delayed due to the pending nature of the Indigenous Language Diploma pilot program. ECE awards as many qualifying scholarships as applied for, however, the Department is experiencing a lack of demand without an NWT-based program.
 - Plans to analyze and share Middle Development Instrument and the Health Behaviour of School-Aged Children surveys are delayed due to conflicting priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic and internal staff capacity. Action is expected to be completed by 2023.
 - The Indigenous Language Instructor Employment Plan is delayed. A draft employment plan has been completed and one education body is interested in implementing action in the 2022-2023 school year.
- 3) How does the Department of Education, Culture and Employment know that it meets students' needs in small communities, including needs for specialist services; how are the needs identified, measured, monitored and reported; and what are barriers and problems in data collection?

ECE has an Education Body Committee System through which education body input and feedback is provided; within this system,

ECE officials work with Superintendents while the Minister of ECE works with elected Education Leaders. Is it through this committee structure that education bodies inform ECE of both successes and issues within their communities so that the Department can collaborate with regions directly to address issues and provide support?

The early screening and identification of the learning needs of students are completed at the regional level through schools and education bodies using a variety of screening tools and interventions. Education specialist services include ECE staff such as Territorial-based Support Team Coordinators and Regional Inclusive Schooling Coordinators, specialist staffing within schools such as Program Support Teachers and Support Assistants), and staff contracted by ECE and/or education bodies as needed. Program Support Teachers at each school may refer students to the NTHSSA, Child and Youth Counsellors, and Educational Psychology services. ECE's Territorial-Based Support Team is working closely with education bodies and contracted expertise to further improve school-based support services across the territory.

ECE monitors various performance measures which help identify progress or areas for improvement annually. The EDI, MDI and HBSC provide snapshots of the developmental health of five-year-old children, Grade 4 and Grade 7 students, and Grades 6-10 students, respectively. These are not screening or assessment tools for individual children.

Health and Social Services specialist services are provided by the Department of Health and Social Services and the health authorities.

General barriers impacting the collection of data include inconsistent data collection standards, lack of quality assurance processes, and economic and technical limitations, such as human resource capacity and the cost and usability of technology in the North. With respect to data on student needs, barriers include a lack of territorial tools to collect needed data and legislative barriers that limit information sharing between departments.

4) How is the Department of Education, Culture and Employment considering the socio-economic diversity and residential school legacy in small communities in its approaches to providing education services and collaborating with communities, explaining which actions, services, and funds are explicitly targeting

small communities and the distinct socio-economic situations and legacies - for example, are actions like providing food allowances or liaising with Housing NWT considered?

ECE's NWT JK-12 Indigenous Languages and Education Policy guides culture and language-based education. It ensures that schools actively implement the foundational curricula of Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit, as well as the Indigenous Languages and Education Handbook. The ILE Policy mandates that education bodies ensure Elders and cultural resource experts play an integral role in developing learning environments that center and promote the Indigenous worldviews, culture, and language of the community. Indigenous language instruction is guided by the NWT's mandated JK-12 Indigenous language curriculum: Our Languages curriculum.

In 2022-2023, the GNWT is providing \$11.6 million for Indigenous languages and education initiatives in schools. Of this amount, \$7.05 million is for Indigenous languages staff and \$857,000 is for resource development to support Indigenous language instruction. The School Funding Framework, NWT JK-12 Indigenous Languages and Education Procedures Manual, and ILE Handbook outline how education bodies and schools are expected to implement the ILE Policy, including additional details on ILE funding limits and expectations.

ECE is adapting anti-racism training used for health care professionals and will be offering "Creating Cultural Awareness, Anti-Racism & Allyship in Action" workshops to teachers and school staff in 2022-2023. ECE also offers the delivery of the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, adapted to a northern perspective version, to education bodies upon request.

The New to the NWT Educators' Conference is a professional learning opportunity extended to all educators that are new to the NWT. It has been created to help orient educators to the foundational elements of education in the NWT, provide background knowledge of the unique history and context of education in the NWT, and to begin the process of establishing personal and professional connections.

Two training components of this conference include Indigenous Languages and Education, familiarizing teachers to the philosophy for programming and practices that bring the Indigenous Languages and Education Policy to Life in NWT schools; and Rooted in Conversation, familiarizing teachers with the complex history of residential schools in the

NWT, the impacts of trauma as a result of residential school experiences, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to action and the process of reconciliation.

ECE also provides trauma-informed approach/responsive classrooms training and support to education body staff on a request basis to assist educators with understanding and responding to the impacts of trauma.

Through partnerships with education bodies, ECE has increased both the number of small schools accessing the Northern Distance Learning program, as well as the number of available courses offered through the program. This has allowed students to have equitable access to higher level academic courses not often available in their local communities which will enable them to pursue post-secondary opportunities.

The School Funding Framework allows education bodies to provide quality educational programming that reflects the needs of the population they serve. The Framework permits flexibility to accommodate local decision making. The School Funding Framework is based on the premise that, over and above the base costs of operations, education bodies should receive funding for factors that are beyond their control. A location factor, northern cost index, is based on Statistics Canada's living cost differentials and serves to increase the amount of a funding an education body receives, where Yellowknife is the base city in the price comparison. The northern cost index is applied to funding for Healing and Counselling under Inclusive Schooling funding. Healing and counselling refer to strategies and supports designed to address behavioural, social, emotional, and healing issues, including those related to the legacy of residential schooling.

As part of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, ECE distributes Healthy Food for Learning annual funding to NWT schools for breakfast, snack and lunch programming. The program responds to needs related to northern food insecurity and socio-economic challenges.

The Northern Cost Index is taken into account to ensure equitable funding is given to each school and Superintendents have the authority to allocate funding to best meet needs in the schools in their regions.

Under the Income Assistance Program, applicants who have school aged children are provided an education allowance in September based on what the specific school identifies as necessary, notebooks, indoor shoes, binders, pens, pencils school bus fees,

etc. This allowance is specific to the school/community needs.

Through the Small Community Employment Support Program, ECE provides funding directly to Designated Community Authorities (DCAs) to allocate among local employers in accordance with their specific employment and training needs. This supports a strategic and inclusive approach to community-wide labour market, employment and training development. ECE also provides funding support to DCAs to assist them in developing multi-year Community Labour Market Development Plans. Under the SCES Program, communities who develop CLMDPs, with or without ECE financial support, are eligible to receive SCES Program funds through multi-year funding agreements, as opposed to annual allocations. SCES Program supports are available in all communities except Yellowknife.

- 5) Has the Department considered designing a targeted approach to improve student outcomes in small communities within a set timeline that may include partnerships and allocate funds to support students based on needs; and if yes, will that approach be actioned upon, and if not, why not?

Within the Action Plan to Improve JK-12 Student Outcomes, actions to support achievement in small community schools are prioritized and intended to support Education Renewal and Innovation (ERI) Commitment #5: The GNWT will do its part to ensure that the strengths and realities of small communities are recognized and built upon in order to ensure equitable, quality education in all NWT communities.

The ERI Framework is a ten-year strategy that places a great deal of emphasis on supporting NWT educators so that they may be in the best possible position to meet the needs of all students in all communities. Recognizing this need, ECE intends to design and introduce training that is specifically targeted towards those employees who work in the smallest schools in order to address equity issues in education delivery. To date, ECE has completed research on best practices to support small-school principals and for multi-age groups to inform training and supports for teachers of multi-grade classrooms. The ongoing renewal of the JK-12 school curriculum will have a significant impact on how small-school principals and teachers of multi-grade classrooms will be supported. The proposed training programs are scheduled to be developed in parallel with the phased-in

implementation of curriculum renewal, as the GNWT works with partners to adopt and adapt BC's curriculum and assessment tools.

Small schools, even those with a high school program, are often unable to offer the same educational programming options as larger schools in Yellowknife and regional centres, which is why ECE has developed initiatives to support the increased provision of equitable access to education for all students, including those in small communities. Examples include the introduction of the Northern Distance Learning program, as well as the Career and Education Advisors.

ECE works closely with the Regional Indigenous Language & Education Coordinators and the Indigenous Language & Education school teams, consisting of school leadership, classroom teachers, Indigenous language instructors, and support staff, to ensure that school initiatives are respecting and promoting the Indigenous languages of the community and delivering culture-based learning.

Allocation of funding based on student need is a southern-based model that requires one or more specific diagnoses to implement specific monetary values of support. A reliance on a diagnosis-based system is more aligned with the medical model, rather than an inclusive schooling model of tiered supports (supports for all, next level supports for some, intensive support for those with complex needs). Given a lack of access to diagnoses across the territory, needs-based funding is not seen as a favourable system.

In the NWT, support is provided regardless of diagnoses. Inclusive Schooling conditional funding is allocated to education authorities to meet needs and additional supports are provided from ECE, including training, supports for capacity building around complex needs, and more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 44-19(2):
CONTRACTS FOR WORK RELATED TO
THE SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE
CORRIDOR

Written Question 44-19(2) asked by the Member for Frame Lake on June 3rd, 2022, to the Minister of Infrastructure regarding contracts for work related to Slave Geological Province Corridor.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 45-19(2):
CONTRACTS FOR WORK RELATED TO
THE TALTSOY HYDRO EXPANSION

Written Question 45-19(2) asked by the Member for Frame Lake on June 3rd, 2022, to the Minister of Infrastructure regarding contracts for work related to Taltsoy Hydro Expansion.

A request was made to provide details of all the contracts entered into by the Government of the Northwest Territories for work related to the Taltsoy Hydro Expansion project, including studies on submarine transmission lines, from April 1, 2020 to June 3, 2022, indicating whether any of the contractors were or are registered under the Business Incentive Policy. There was an additional question about planned actions to maximize northern employment, training, and business opportunities in future contracts related to the project.

The Member for Frame Lake previously raised a similar question on June 10, 2020 regarding contracts for work related to the Taltsoy Hydro Expansion entered into by the Government of the Northwest Territories between September 1, 2015 and September 1, 2020. A response was provided, and a detailed list of contracts was tabled in this House on October 15, 2020.

Mr. Speaker, in response to the Member's first two questions, later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the detailed list of the contracts entered into by the Government of the Northwest Territories for work related to the Taltsoy Hydro Expansion project, including whether the contractors' Business Incentive Policy status received any consideration in the evaluation of the proposals or bids.

Through the public procurement process, the Government of the Northwest Territories supports territorial and local content through the application of the Business Incentive Policy. To date, contracts entered into for the Taltsoy Hydro Expansion project have been specialized and technical in nature. The Business Incentive Policy was applied in each competitive contract evaluation. Sole source contracts and contribution agreements do not include the Business Incentive Policy as part of the selection process.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of the method of procurement taken for each specific project activity, the Government of the Northwest Territories strives to maximize the benefits to local residents and businesses from the Taltsoy Hydro Expansion Project. You may recall our Government-established contribution agreements with the Arctic Research

Foundation to complete specialized studies on Great Slave Lake. These studies have provided a wealth of hydrographic data, including detailed mapping, soil sampling and lake-bottom profiling. The Arctic Research Foundation's work was supported by local equipment, labour, guides, and boat crews, and was used as an opportunity to host local and Indigenous youth through the Northern Youth Leadership Program to develop leadership and life skills. Over a period of two seasons of work, the Arctic Research Foundation spent 900,000 dollars on northern content. This work, along with a number of transmission line engineering studies, has been critical to enable the project working group to confirm technically viable transmission line corridors for the project.

Regarding the Member's third question, the Government of the Northwest Territories has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Akaitcho Dene First Nations and the Northwest Territory Métis Nation to advance the project together. The Salt River First Nation was an original signatory to the MOU but has since made the decision to withdraw. It is hoped that a mutually acceptable path forward will be established in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the MOU would allow the parties to work together to ensure northern employment, training and business opportunities are maximized by using a collaborative approach to project development. Indigenous governments have, over the last two years, collectively received 720,000 dollars in funding to support their participation on a project Working Group and Steering Committee with local and Indigenous benefits at the forefront of the discussion.

The Steering Committee has recently directed specific priorities be investigated, such as electric heat studies in the South Slave Region, as well as a literature review of the legacy impacts of the original Taltsoy Hydro facilities be completed. The GNWT has multi-year agreements with MOU signatories that will ensure funding for ongoing engagement and participation in the annual amount of 1.93 million dollars. Most of that funding will support Indigenous and community led participation in the project.

As has been stated previously, much of the work completed for the Taltsoy Hydro expansion to date has been technical, as it has focused on examining the viability of four potential transmission line routes either across or around Great Slave Lake. We have narrowed the list of technically viable transmission corridors down to two and we are

pleased to be moving beyond technical design and towards partner and community engagement on local land use, Indigenous knowledge gathering, and baseline fieldwork that will form the basis of regulatory applications. As we continue to move the project forward beyond technical considerations, the skill sets required are broadening. The Taltson Hydro Expansion project is expected to provide more opportunities for northerners to shape the project footprint and leverage northern involvement and expertise to improve outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that the benefits flow to Northwest Territories residents and businesses through the ongoing work to expand Taltson is an important consideration as we continue to advance the project. It will be several years before this project advances to a final construction decision. In the meantime, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be working with Indigenous partners to undertake studies, complete planning and regulatory work, and hold public community engagement sessions to support participation and maximum benefits for residents and businesses in this long term, transformational opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 46-19(2):
POST-DEVOLUTION MINING REVENUES
TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Written Question 46-19(2) asked by the Member for Frame Lake on June 3rd, 2022, to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment regarding post-devolution mining revenues in the Northwest Territories.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 47-19(2):
STATUS OF HOUSING RENOVATIONS IN
THE TLICHO REGION**

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Written Question 47-19(2) asked by the Member for Monfwi on Friday, June 3rd, 2022, to the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories regarding the status of housing renovations in the Tlicho region.

1. How many of the units renovated are empty units that will be renovated to make them available to people on the waiting list?

There are five (5) units currently vacant which are part of the Maintenance and Improvement contract. Housing NWT projects that as many

as five (5) units (not specifically those five (5) units) would be allocated to new tenants by the end of the fiscal year.

2. How many of the renovation contracts were awarded to businesses located in the Tlicho region?

All contracts were awarded to Tlicho Property Management.

3. How many Tlicho residents received training or apprenticeship through the renovation projects in Behchoko?

Tlicho Property Management is a Tlicho owned and operated company with 95% of its employees being Tlicho. For data on training and apprenticeships, the Member is advised to contact Tlicho Property Management as they are the contractor, and they would have that information.

4. How many renovations of units will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year?

All 18 units are scheduled for completion at the end of the fiscal year. Initially, the plan was to renovate more units but due to some projects being over budget, some projects have been deferred to the next fiscal year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to written questions. Replies to the Commissioner's address. Petitions. Colleagues, we will call a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Great Slave.

**Reports of Committees on the Review
of Bills**

**BILL 48:
ARBITRATION ACT**

MS. NOKLEBY: Mr. Speaker, my apologies; am I on the Arbitration Act, the committee? Yes, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 48, Arbitration Act.

Bill 48 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on March 30th, 2022 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for review. On October 5th, 2022, the standing committee held a public hearing with the Minister of Justice. And

on October 11th, 2022, committee completed its clause-by-clause review of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the committee reports that Bill 48, Arbitration Act, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Nunakput.

BILL 52:
ELEVATORS AND LIFTS ACT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act.

Bill 52 received a second reading in the Legislative Assembly May 31st, 2022 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment for review.

On September 28th, 2022, the standing committee held a public hearing with the Minister of Infrastructure and completed its clause-by-clause review of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the committee reports that Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nunakput. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

BILL 53:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIQUOR ACT

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 53, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act.

Bill 53 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on May 31st, 2022 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations for review. On October 7th, 2022, the standing committee held a public hearing with the Minister of Finance and completed its clause-by-clause review of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the committee reports that Bill 53, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Reports of committees on

the review of bills. Reports of standing and special committees. Member for Nunakput.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 32-19(2):
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE CHIEF
ELECTORAL OFFICER'S AUXILIARY
REPORT: ISSUES ARISING FROM THE
2019 TERRITORIAL ELECTION

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Report of the Chief Electoral Officer's Auxiliary Report: Issues Arising from the 2019 Territorial Election.

Your Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures is pleased to provide the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer's Auxiliary Report: Issues Arising from the 2019 Territorial Election.

The Elections Plebiscites Act, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to the present report administration election within six months of the election. The Speaker tabled Chief Electoral Officer's Report Administration in 2019 Territorial General Election on May 28th, 2020 and referred to the committee for review. Committee completed a review and presented to the Committee Report No. 9-19(2) to the Assembly February 23, 2021, that the report, committee made 19 recommendations. All recommendations were adopted by the Assembly on March 30, 2021. Three of those recommendations directed to the CEO to conduct additional research to report back to the Legislative Assembly within six months.

On March 29th, the Speaker tabled the Auxiliary Report of Chief Electoral Officer: Issues Arising from 2019 General Election. This report responded to these additional research requests. It included recommendation following the Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh by-election.

The standing committee met on April 4th, 2022, to September 22, 2022, to consider the report. Committee also considered issues the CEO discovered during the letter to the Speaker dated July 25th, 2022. The letter attached Appendix 1. Committee thanks the CEO for meeting with the committee to discuss these additional issues.

Casting the Vote from Anywhere

The CEO was directed to review on how Canadian jurisdictions allow residents to cast votes for their home electoral district from the polling station. This concern was raised by submission to committee earlier to review the

elector must -- the multi-district community when went wrong. The poll was turned away, was redirected to another poll. The elector was discouraged in voting. Committee concerned that was impacted that they continued by counting the ballots. Timeliness and the results of ballots need to be sent to another polling district for counting. In this case, delayed reporting results.

The CEO identified that the options -- a few options that noted that the full-vote-anywhere model would require technology Elections NWT currently does not have. This includes the ability to print ballots in polling stations, the electronic tabulators to count to transmit the results. The CEO recommended Elections NWT trial vote-anywhere model during advance voting in the offices of returning officers. Under such system, during the advance period, the voter who normally lives in another riding when they are currently located that could go to the office of the returning officer where they can vote in their home riding. For example, if Paul from Sachs Harbour was in Inuvik for school and medical during the election, he could go to the office of the returning officer in Inuvik and vote.

The Advance Voting Period

The returning officers of Inuvik confirmed Paul is in the voters' list in Nunakput riding and issues a right [sic] on the ballot. A list of the candidates for Paul, also who voted for the ballot, would be sealed. The sealed ballot would be sent to Elections NWT headquarters the same way mail-in ballots would be treated, then counted, reported by the election officer, and included in totals for Nunakput.

Committee agrees with the Chief Electoral Officer's recommendations.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends the Elections NWT trial vote-anywhere model during advanced voting in the offices of the returning offices. Committee recommends that necessary legislative amendments that are required to do such model be made.

Mr. Speaker, I pass this on to my colleague from Hay River South, Mr. Simpson. Thank you.

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

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON:

Best Practices in Election Reporting

The CEO was asked to conduct research on best practices on election reporting in other jurisdictions across Canada. Committee had previously noted changes in style and content in how election results had been reported during the last few elections. Some polls had been combined due to small numbers and the introduction of online voting in 2019 was not differentiated from mail-in ballots, nor from other advance voting opportunities.

Committee noted that Elections NWT has moved from a table format to a more visual representation of official results since 2007. Section 265 of the Elections and Plebiscites Act requires the CEO to provide, to the Speaker, a report setting out by polling division, the following:

- The number of votes cast for each candidate;
- The number of declined ballots;
- The number of rejected ballots;
- The number of names on the list of electors; and,
- Any other information the CEO considers should be included.

In their report, the CEO notes that due to small population sizes in some communities, some voting opportunities are not well attended and could have only a handful of people using such an opportunity. Reporting such small numbers could ultimately compromise the secret ballot. As a result, in some cases these polls cannot be reported separately.

The CEO recommends that the Legislative Assembly not be overly prescriptive in the reporting requirements under section 265 of the Act. The CEO notes that Elections NWT is committed to the principles of open data and will work to ensure future reports contain as much detail as possible, without compromising the secrecy of individual's votes.

Committee agrees with the CEO's recommendation, and at this time is not in favour of setting out more detailed reporting requirements in the Act but encourages Elections NWT to adopt a consistent approach to reporting from election to election.

Publicly Disclosing Addresses

The Assembly directed the CEO to conduct a review of the requirements to publicly disclose a candidate's residential address and return to the Legislative Assembly with the findings of that review and any potential amendments to the Elections and Plebiscites Act. The CEO

notes that in addition to the requirement to publish a candidate's address, the Act requires the publication of the address of official agents. The CEO also noted that candidate's financial reports are required to include the addresses of contributors to their campaign and this information has been included in summary reports on the Elections NWT website. As a result, the CEO expanded their review to include these disclosures.

Across Canada, seven jurisdictions do not publish physical addresses of candidates, and two jurisdictions have noted that they will be stopping this practice in the immediate future. The CEO notes that the NWT is one of only three jurisdictions to publish the address of an agent, and one of four that publishes the addresses for donors.

It is important to note that the Act requires that a candidate, agent, and contributor must be a resident of the Northwest Territories but does not require they be resident in the electoral district they are running in. As a result, as long as the community they reside in is identified and not their physical address, the goals of the Act would still be met.

The CEO concluded there is limited value in publishing a candidate's residential address. The loss of privacy for the candidate is not outweighed by the public of interest of disclosing the location of a candidate's home. There are other safeguards in the Act to ensure that a candidate is resident in the Northwest Territories, and none of these require the candidate's home address to be made public.

This also holds true for publishing an official agent's residential address as part of proclamation of a poll. The Act requires that any campaign material include a name and phone number so that the public can ask questions of the campaign without requiring the official agent's address.

In regards to contributors, any contributor to a campaign must disclose their residential address to the campaign so that the official agent can properly report all donations, financial or otherwise, in the required financial report. This information has been included in the summary report prepared by Elections NWT, but it is not required.

In response to complaints from the public, and advice from the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Elections NWT will no longer include addresses in the candidate financial report summaries posted on the Elections NWT website. Only their community of residence will be posted. Committee is

satisfied with this step taken by Elections NWT.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to remove the requirement to publish a candidate's or official agent's residential address under sections 96 and 97, and to substitute community of residence.

I will now turn to the Member for Nahendah. Thank you.

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

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Register of Future Electors

During the 2022 Tu-Nedhe-Wiilideh by-election, Elections NWT noted that only four people under the age of 21 cast ballots. All four were registered to vote during the by-election and were not on the voters list. It was noted that anyone who turned 18 after the 2019 general election was not included on the voters list. The CEO notes that eight other jurisdictions in Canada, including the Yukon, have the legislated authority to create a registry of future electors. These registers allow youth aged 16 and 17 to register with an electoral agency. Once registered, on their 18th birthday they are transferred to the general voters list.

Elections NWT data revealed that on July 1, 2021 there were 1,659 adults between the ages of 18 and 20 in the NWT, but only 73 people on the voters list are in the same age group. This means only 4 percent of adults aged 18 to 20 are registered to vote on the voters list. The CEO noted that Elections NWT has limited methods to try and find those voters and register them. Creating a registry of future electors would be one way to engage youth before they come of age to vote.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to allow Elections NWT to create a registry of future electors, allowing youth aged 16 and 17, to register with the same information as permitted under s. 54(2) of the Act.

Other issues raised by the Chief Electoral Officer

Elections Rebate Program

The Legislative Assembly previously recommended the Act be amended to include an election rebate program. While working to implement this recommendation, the CEO noted an issue where a candidate who contributes to their own campaign could potentially receive both a rebate of those funds under the new program as well as a tax credit from the Canada Revenue Agency. Committee believes that where a candidate receives a tax credit from the Canada Revenue Agency, they should not be entitled to a rebate for those same funds. Only one benefit should be accessible.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that implementing an election rebate program authorized under the Elections and Plebiscites Act, the Chief Electoral Officer ensures candidates are not be able to claim a rebate for any money they donate to their own campaign that is also eligible for a tax credit from the Canada Revenue Agency.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to turn the report over to the Member for Frame Lake. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nahendah. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President.

Peace Officers

It was noted that the requirement for polling station accounts was removed from the Act in 2018 but some references to it remain. The CEO notes that the removal of the polling station accounts eliminates the reporting on whether peace officers are appointed at polls and the reasons why a peace officer was appointed. The CEO believes the requirement to report on such appointments remains important and should be retained.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that references to "polling station account" be removed from the Act and that a provision be added to section 119(4) that requires any deputy returning officer who appoints a peace officer to state their reasons for doing so in writing to the returning officer as soon as possible.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that section 205(e)

of the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to require that a returning officer include, in their report of proceedings, any appointments of peace officers made under s. 119(4) of the Act.

Electoral Boundaries Commission

The Electoral Boundaries Commission provided their final report to the Assembly. It was tabled on May 27, 2022 (Tabled Document 654-19(2)). Their report recommended that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to clearly allow the Commission to receive information from the register of electors. Section 77 of the Act states that information contained in the register of electors can only be used for an election or plebiscite; however, section 9 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act requires the Commission to consider information in the register of elections. The CEO supports this recommendation, as it would allow for information sharing and support the work of the Commission in recommending changes to electoral boundaries. Committee agrees.

Recommendation 7

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to allow an Electoral Boundaries Commission to receive information from the register of electors under section 77.

Business Days

The CEO has noted that a candidate's financial report is due within 60 calendar days under the Act. When elections were traditionally held on a Monday, this resulted in a candidate's financial report being due on a Friday. When polling shifted to Tuesday, the reporting deadline became a Saturday when Elections NWT is closed. The CEO recommends amending the Act to refer to "business days" rather than "calendar days". Committee agrees.

Recommendation 8

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to allow for a candidate's financial report to be submitted within 45 business days rather than 60 calendar days.

Conclusion

The committee wishes to thank the CEO, Mr. Stephen Dunbar, for the additional research and recommendations provided in his auxiliary report.

This concludes the Committee's review of the Chief Electoral Officer's Auxiliary Report on the 2019 General Election. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Reports of standing and special committees. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Hay River South, that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures report on the Chief Electoral Officer Auxiliary Report: Issues Arising from the 2019 Territorial Election be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is carried. The report of Chief Electoral Officer Auxiliary Report will be moved into Committee of the Whole.

---Carried.

Reports of standing and special committees. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Tabling of Documents.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 681-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE
REPORT 26-19(2): REPORT ON THE CHILD
AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT – LIFTING
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES: AN ALL
OF TERRITORY APPROACH TO KEEPING
FAMILIES TOGETHER

TABLED DOCUMENT 682-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE
REPORT 31-19(2): REPORT ON BILL 40: AN
ACT TO AMEND THE MEDICAL
PROFESSION ACT

TABLED DOCUMENT 683-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO MOTION 54-
19(2): IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IN SMALL
COMMUNITIES

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents: Response to Committee Report 26-19(2): Report on the Child and Family Services Act - Lifting NWT Children, Youth, and Families: An All of Territory Approach to Keeping Families

Together; Response to Committee Report 31-19(2): Report on Bill 40: An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act; Response to Motion 54-19(2): Improving Health Care in Small Communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 684-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL
QUESTION 1127-19(2): INCREASING COST
OF FUEL

TABLED DOCUMENT 685-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL
QUESTION 1129-19(2): INCREASING COST
OF FUEL

TABLED DOCUMENT 686-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL
QUESTION 1144-19(2): COST OF THE
WHATI TRANSMISSION LINE

TABLED DOCUMENT 687-19(2):
SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE
CORRIDOR CONTRACT LIST, APRIL 1, 2020
– JUNE 3, 2022

TABLED DOCUMENT 688-19(2):
TALSTON HYDRO EXPANSION PROJECT
CONTRACT LIST, APRIL 1, 2020 – JUNE 3,
2022

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following five documents: Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1127-19(2): Increasing Cost of Fuel; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1129-19(2): Increasing Cost of Fuel; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1144-19(2): Cost of Whati Transmission Line. Further to my Return to Written Question 44-19(2), a document entitled Slave Geological Province Corridor Contract List, April 1st, 2020 - June 3rd, 2022. Finally, Mr. Speaker, further to my Written Question 45-19(2), document entitled Taltson Hydro Expansion Project Contract List, April 1, 2020 - June 3, 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources.

TABLED DOCUMENT 689-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE
REPORT 24-19(2): REPORT ON THE
STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE SPECIES AT
RISK (NWT) ACT AND WILDLIFE ACT

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Response to Committee Report 24-19(2): Report on the Statutory Review of the Species at Risk (NWT) Act and Wildlife Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 690-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO MOTION 57-
19(2): HOUSING NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES TRANSFERS TO LONG-
TERM TENANTS

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Response to Motion 57-19(2): Housing Northwest Territories Transfers to Long-term Tenants. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 691-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE
REPORT 29-19(2): REPORT ON THE
REVIEW OF THE LANGUAGES
COMMISSIONER FOR THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

TABLED DOCUMENT 692-19(2):
RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT 30-
19(2): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE
2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY
COMMISSIONER

TABLED DOCUMENT 693-19(2):
33RD ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022 VICTIMS
ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 694-19(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CORONER
SERVICE 2021-2022 EARLY RELEASE OF
SUICIDE DATA

TABLED DOCUMENT 695-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL
QUESTION 1094-19(2): ROYAL CANADIAN
MOUNTED POLICE DE-ESCALATION
TRAINING

TABLED DOCUMENT 696-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL
QUESTION 1113-19(2): ROYAL CANADIAN
MOUNTED POLICE IN FORT SMITH

TABLED DOCUMENT 697-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL
QUESTION 1120-19(2): FUNDING FOR
SMALL COMMUNITIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 698-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL
QUESTION 1136-19(2): RCMP COMPLAINTS
AND MISCONDUCT

TABLED DOCUMENT 699-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL
QUESTION 1138-19(2): RCMP VIOLENCE
AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN

TABLED DOCUMENT 700-19(2):
RESPONSE TO MOTION 58-19(2): A
STRATEGY TO MATCH CANADA'S
POPULATION GROWTH

TABLED DOCUMENT 701-19(2):
NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 702-19(2):
FORMAT FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
SUBMISSIONS RECOMMENDING
AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE
CONTRACTS UNDER THE NEGOTIATED
CONTRACTS POLICY (11.26)

TABLED DOCUMENT 703-19(2):
INFORMATION FOR RETURN TO WRITTEN
QUESTION 46-19(2) POST-DEVOLUTION
MINING REVENUES TO THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Get comfortable.

First I would like to table the following nine documents: Response to Committee Report 29-19(2): Report on the Review of the Languages Commissioner for the Northwest Territories Annual Report 2020-2021; Response to Committee Report 30-19(2): Report on the Review of the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner; 33rd Annual Report 2021-2022 Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories; Northwest Territories Coroner Service 2021-2022 Early Release of Suicide Data; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1094-19(2): Royal Canadian Mounted Police De-escalation Training; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1113-19(2): Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Fort Smith; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1120-19(2)

Funding for Small Communities; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1136-19(2): RCMP Complaints and Misconduct; and, Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1138-19(2): RCMP Violence Against Indigenous Women.

On behalf of the Premier, I wish to table the following three documents: Response to Motion 58-19(2): A Strategy to Match Canada's Population Growth; Further, to return to Written Question 42-19(2), the document is entitled Negotiated Contracts; and, Format for Executive Council Submissions Recommending Authorization to Negotiate Contracts Under the Negotiated Contracts Policy 11-26.

On behalf of the Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investments, Return to Written Question 46-19(2), I wish to table the following document: Information for Return to Written Question 46-19(2) Post-Devolution Mining Revenues to the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Member for Frame Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 704-19(2):
CHAMBER OF MINES OPEN LETTER
DATED JULY 27, 2022 TO MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT
REGARDING ALTERNATIVES NORTH
PUBLIC SOLICITATION AND THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ROYALTY
REGIME

TABLED DOCUMENT 705-19(2):
ALTERNATIVES NORTH MINERAL
ROYALTIES FACT SHEET, JULY 29, 2022

TABLED DOCUMENT 706-19(2):
CANADIAN ARCTIC RESOURCES
COMMITTEE EBOOK "LINES IN THE
SNOW", NWT MINING REVENUES
CHAPTER

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I wish to table the following three documents: A letter dated July 27, 2022, from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, an open letter to Minister Wawzonek regarding NWT royalties and also regarding Alternatives North's public solicitation and the NWT Mining Royalty Regime. The second document, Mr. Speaker, is a fact sheet distributed by Alternatives North on mineral royalties, how much public benefit from our public resources. The third document, Mr. Speaker, is a chapter from a book "Lines in the Snow", Thoughts on the Past and Future of Northern Canadian Policy Issues by Kevin O'Reilly, Northwest Territories Mining

Revenues: Fair Return for Natural Capital or Resource Give-Away? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Tabling of documents.

TABLED DOCUMENT 707-19(2):
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, RECORD OF
DECISION 253-19-2022 – SCHEDULE C
AMENDMENT REGULATIONS, 2022

TABLED DOCUMENT 708-19(2):
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIRING
ALLOWANCE FUND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH
31, 2022

TABLED DOCUMENT 709-19(2):
ELECTIONS NWT 2021-22 ANNUAL
REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 710-19(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022

TABLED DOCUMENT 711-19(2):
OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION AND
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ANNUAL
REPORT 2021-2022

TABLED DOCUMENT 712-19(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

TABLED DOCUMENT 713-19(2):
SPEAKING UP FOR FAIRNESS, 2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES OMBUD

Colleagues, I'll table the following seven documents: Pursuant to section 21(3) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I hereby table the Legislative Assembly Board of Management Record of Decision 253-19-2022 for Schedule C Amendment Regulations, 2022.

Also pursuant to section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act, I wish to table the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund Financial Statements for the year end March 31, 2022. Also, in accordance with section 266.1(1) of the Elections and Plebiscite Act, I wish to table the Elections NWT 2021-2022 Annual Report. Also pursuant to section 21 of the Human Rights Act, I wish to table the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2021-2022. Also pursuant to section 68 of the Access to

Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I wish to table the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories 2021-2022 Annual Report. Also I hereby table the 2021-2022 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Pursuant to section 43 of the Ombud Act, I hereby table Speaking Up for Fairness, the 2021-2022 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Ombud.

Tabling of documents. I think that's a record, two and a half pages of tabled documents. Notices of motion. Member for Hay River South.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 60-19(2):
REFERRAL OF Tabled DOCUMENT 528-19(2) TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION 61-19(2):
REFERRAL OF Tabled DOCUMENT 654-19(2) TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the following two motions: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 17th, 2022, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that Tabled Document 528-19(2): 2021 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits Northwest Territories be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 17th, 2022, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that Tabled Document 654-19(2): 2021-2022 Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission Final Report be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Notices of motion. Motions. Notices of motion for the first reading of bills. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters.

Bill 23 and 29 with Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): I now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Member for Frame Lake.

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

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: May I please have the report of Committee of the Whole. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 23 and 29 and would like to report progress. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Do we have a seconder? Member for Nunakput. All those in favour? All those opposed? Any abstentions? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Third reading of bills.

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Friday, October 14th, 2022, 10 a.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Address

11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Motions
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. 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
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 14th, 2022, at 10 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

