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The Honourable Frederick Blake Jr, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, October 25, 2022****Members Present**

Hon. Diane Archie, Hon. Frederick Blake Jr., Hon. Paulie Chinna, Ms. Cleveland, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Mr. Edjericon, Hon. Julie Green, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martselos, Ms. Nokleby, Ms. Semmler, Hon. R.J. Simpson, Mr. Rocky Simpson, Hon. Shane Thompson, Hon. Caroline Wawzonek, Ms. Weyallon-Armstrong.

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.): Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 275-19(2):
CARIBOU ENFORCEMENT

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House about the Environment and Natural Resources' search of the Lutselk'e camp on September 13th. Many people have asked for more information about how and why a search was conducted at the camp near Artillery Lake. As the search was a matter before the courts, we could not provide more information.

On October 24th, the search warrant used for this search was quashed. I want to make it clear that the investigations related to suspected illegal caribou harvest and wastage remains open and are ongoing. As this search is no longer part of the active investigation, I am now in a position of sharing more information which has been reported by the officers.

Mr. Speaker, it is understood that on September 13th, two officers landed on a designated helipad located a short distance from the Timber Bay camp. The unarmed officers, in standard-issued uniforms, met with identified leaders of the camp. The officers waited until leaders at the camp had time to meet, consult their legal counsel, and let the officers proceed with the search. This meant that officers did not start their search for close to an hour and 20 minutes after they landed. Leaders of the camp did not agree to a request by the officers' to be shown where recently harvested caribou meat was located within the camp, which would have enabled the officers to do a narrower search. The

officers only took small samples of meat to use as evidence, instead of seizing all meat. Once the search began, a member of the camp leadership and a number of other camp participants accompanied officers. The search, including small collections, took about an hour and 40 minutes. From landing to leaving, officers were there for around three hours. We expect this information, video taken by those at the camp, and other accounts will be assessed during the officers' conduct review, which the GNWT remains committed to complete.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the importance of caribou to our Indigenous communities across the NWT, and we know that current harvest restrictions have been very hard on people who rely on this resource.

Mr. Speaker, the mobile zone is in place because the Bathurst herd has experienced a 99 percent decrease since 1986 when the herd was 470,000. In 2021, ENR established that 6,200 Bathurst caribou remained. ENR continues to work closely with Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, and renewable resource boards on a range of actions to support the conservation and recovery of the Bathurst herd, while also supporting harvest from healthy caribou herds and other wildlife species.

Mr. Speaker, this government knows just how important harvesting is to communities. We hear it from elders, leaders, harvesters and families. We also listen when they tell us to support more on-the-land activities and invest in programs that help families out on the land.

Mr. Speaker, we want to encourage traditional practices that help sustain wildlife populations and support recovery of the Bathurst herd. ENR has many programs designed to encourage communities and individuals to get out on the land and harvest, including the Community Harvesters Assistance Program and the Take a Family on the Land Program. ENR believes this work supports the GNWT's efforts toward reconciliation.

Respectful harvesting is a cornerstone of traditional values. The GNWT continues to work closely with Indigenous leaders and other co-management partners to encourage harvesters, families, and community members to harvest respectfully. I acknowledge that there are relationships that need to be restored in the wake of this incident. I have recently reached out to the Lutselk'e Dene First Nation to arrange a face-to-face meeting to discuss how we can continue our collaborative efforts to work together to support caribou recovery.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is committed to continue working with our partners to take the actions necessary to protect the Bathurst herd and help its recover for future generations. People and communities across the herd's range, and the NWT as a whole, expect that out of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 276-19(2): AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Mr. Speaker, making strategic investments in our transportation system is one of the mandates of the 19th Legislative Assembly and modernizing Northwest Territories airport infrastructure will help to achieve this. Investing in airport improvements keeps our communities connected while reducing the cost of living and supporting economic opportunities. Given our vast territory and dispersed communities, air travel is essential for Northern residents, businesses, and tourists.

The GNWT manages 27 public airports that support vital services, including community resupply, air ambulance, search and rescue, forest fire response, and much more. Investing in our airports not only improves the delivery of safe and efficient transportation but also provides jobs, skills, training, and economic opportunities to communities and residents. In fact, a total of 200 Northerners are employed directly through our airports. This does not include jobs created through special projects, such as the capital construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, for many communities across the North, air travel is an essential service. For this reason, airport maintenance, and improvement activities are particularly important to ensure safe and efficient travel.

With this in mind, the Department of Infrastructure is completing work at some of our regional airports. We are undertaking

drainage improvements at Sachs Harbour, Fort McPherson, Paulatuk, Jean Marie, and Smbaa K'e airports to increase the resiliency of these airports to the effects of climate change. Upgrades are being made to the air terminal buildings in Fort McPherson, Norman Wells, Wrigley, and Paulatuk to improve the travel experience at these airports.

A granular production and supply program was completed for Whati to replenish the airport's maintenance gravel stockpile for summer maintenance training. Additional material was stockpiled in Whati to be transported over the winter road to Gameti airport to replenish that airport's maintenance stockpile.

During the summer maintenance training program, granular material was placed on the Fort Resolution runway to re-establish the crown and promote surface drainage. Runway improvements are also being made in Inuvik, and I will be providing further details on the Inuvik Runway Project in a separate statement.

Mr. Speaker, with support from Transport Canada's Airport Capital Assistance Program, or A-CAP, investments in safety are taking place in several airports across the territory.

The airfield in Yellowknife has recently completed drainage rehabilitation work; Fort Simpson's airfield lighting is being replaced; and, Fort Smith is improving existing air side surface overlays. Additionally, mobile equipment that is nearing the end of its lifecycle are being replaced with support from A-CAP in Hay River, Fort Simpson, and Inuvik. A-CAP is critical to supporting our commitment to building capacity and supporting safe and efficient travel, and we appreciate the support of the federal government in helping us to maintain safe, modern, and reliable infrastructure here in the North.

In Inuvik, work is planned to replace the airport terminal building at the Mike Zubko Airport, which includes a new publicly accessible and modern air terminal building and a separate service building. This is due to start in winter 2023.

Mr. Speaker, improvements are also ongoing at the Yellowknife Airport. The 20-year master plan is close to being completed. The master plan considers flight and passenger traffic, infrastructure, commercial development, and changes to the governance model. Once complete, it will be able to provide a vision for the airport that will balance economic, strategic, social, and environmental sustainability with operational and regulatory needs.

Engagement played a crucial part in the development of the plan. That engagement included other GNWT departments and the City of Yellowknife, as well as a public survey for residents to provide their feedback on the final two options for the future development of the Yellowknife Airport.

I also want to mention that the new board of the Yellowknife Airport Economic Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting in June and recently held its second meeting. The advisory committee plays an integral role in shaping the economic future of the airport; and, in turn, has a profound effect on industry stakeholders, as well as residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT will continue to invest in all of our airports. By working closely with communities and the federal government to secure funding, and we will keep our communities connected while supporting opportunities for Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quyananni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 277-19(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES GOVERNANCE
TRANSFORMATION

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the past several years, the health and social services system has been undergoing an important transformation. Today I am presenting an update on the ways that system governance has changed and how those changes help empower communities.

The transformation of governance and management of the health and social services system began in 2016. This change combined the separate regional health and social services boards into one entity - the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority - which works alongside the Tlicho Community Services Agency and the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority.

Mr. Speaker, the NTHSSA was established with a governance model that provides for regional concerns and a territorial board of management that combines and uses this regional knowledge to improve care and outcomes for clients. The integrated model includes six regional advisory health and social services bodies, known as regional wellness councils. Members are nominated by residents or leadership from the regions and appointed by the Minister. It also includes the

territorial governance board, the NTHSSA Leadership Council, whose members include the chair of each regional wellness councils; the chair of the Tlicho Community Services Agency, and; the chair appointed by the Health and Social Services Minister.

The leadership council has been instrumental in improving community access to services, supporting local hiring to increase service quality, and focusing on system sustainability.

Further, the regional wellness council prioritizes community connections, each holding public meetings several times a year. At these meetings, residents can share their experiences. This information informs our work to improve service delivery and health and social services policies.

Mr. Speaker, we have achieved many successes over the last six years as an integrated system. In 2019, we reached an important milestone when we received system-wide accreditation for all three authorities. This means we are meeting nationally-recognized service and care standards. The leadership council supported this process wholeheartedly. We have also made significant progress in addressing concerns related to cultural safety and antiracism. We have implemented mandatory staff training, and we consistently engage with the Indigenous Advisory Board whose members provide advice and recommendations to ensure our programs and services meet cultural safety goals.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Mr. Jim Antoine, who served for six years as the inaugural chairperson on the Leadership Council. I want to thank Mr. Antoine for his dedication to the well-being of Northerners and his commitment to the organization. We will certainly miss him.

The new chairperson is Gerry Cheezie, who took over in August. Mr. Cheezie has a long history of working with First Nations, Metis councils, and all levels of government. He has contributed to various nonprofit and for-profit organizations in different roles, including two terms on the NWT Housing Corporation board of directors. I am pleased to welcome him to his new role.

This change in council leadership presents an opportunity to renew focus on the next stage of system transformation. The leadership council continues to identify key areas that will enable the governance structure to meet statutory requirements and improve programs and services for residents.

Mr. Speaker, while we continue to improve efficiency, there is still work to do. We face some challenges that are unique to the Northwest Territories, and others that are shared by health and social services systems across the country. We will continue to address these issues, as we work alongside the executive leadership team from all three authorities. We will always work to incorporate the valuable input received from communities and residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1213-19(2): FLOOD RESPONSE, MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I went home and heard from constituents who are asking what this government is doing to address future flood preparedness for the communities of Hay River and K'atloodzeeche. Residents are concerned that this government has been silent on what, if any, action is being taken, or is currently underway to assess the flood, our response, mitigation solutions, and emergency preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that we are only six months away from spring break up, and the question is - are we prepared to deal with another flood?

Preparedness does not suggest continuing to offload responsibility to communities that lack, not only human and financial resources, but the expertise to identify and evaluate those flood risk indicators. This government must be, not only an active partner, but take the lead.

Mr. Speaker, in a prior round of questions to the Minister of MACA, he alluded to the fact his authority for addressing flood preparedness and mitigation is limited to what is inside the community boundary. If we do not consider what occurs outside a community boundary, this government will not be prepared to effectively address future flood potential. Mr. Speaker, this is why we need to conduct a thorough post-mortem of the event that took place and to accomplish that, we must engage those government departments that have responsibility for the environment and communities. However, in saying that, we must task one department, or one agency, to take the lead - which, for the GNWT, would be the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources. As well, it goes without saying that the Town of Hay River, K'atloodzeeche First Nation, West Point First Nation, and the Metis, must be included in any and all pre- and post-flood discussions, assessments, and solutions.

Mr. Speaker, as the result of flood damage, this government, the federal government, Indigenous governments, residents, and businesses will have spent approximately \$200 million to address property damage, loss of income, loss of revenue. On top of this figure, we will have additional costs associated with mitigation requirements, ongoing monitoring and assessments of the lake, river, community, and the Hay River Basin.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I am not comfortable in the answers I have received from this government when it comes to what is the plan going forward. Just as we have specialists when it comes to predicting and fighting forest fires, we need that same level of expertise in place when we talk flood and ice management, and those positions must be located in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1214-19(2): GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PROGRESS ON RIGHTS AGREEMENTS AND UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACTION PLAN

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our mandate commits us to settle and implement treaty land resources and self-government agreements, as well as make progress implementing the United Nations Declarations on the rights of Indigenous people. And, Mr. Speaker, when you look at progress to date, it's hard to see that almost anything at all has been done on these two priorities.

The mandate made an unambitious goal of settling two agreements in the life of this Assembly. To date, we have seen zero agreements. And with the last one being Deline self-government in 2015, it's over seven years since this government has signed an agreement on treaty land resources or self-government. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, many of the existing agreements are not fully implemented. There are sections, and there are still fights about implementation dollars.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would take any progress at all on this. Perhaps, you know, when this was first passed and we saw two

agreements, some of us hoped for one of the big three - the Metis, the Akaitcho, or Deh Cho settling, but at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would take a small chapter on governance for a single group or perhaps one of the smaller communities' self-government agreements. I know we recently, in the last Assembly, signed an AIP with Norman Wells. I'm unsure of progress on that.

Even at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would take a group saying, you know, our existing agreement is fully implemented. We believe we have accomplished everything that was originally negotiated, and funding dollars are flowing, because I know many groups would not say that about their current agreements.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, an action plan was promised for summer 2022. Well, summer 2022 has passed, and we do not have an action plan. Now I know COVID occurred, and I know getting agreement on an action plan is a hard goal. But, Mr. Speaker, I grow concerned that we are going to leave this Assembly with absolutely nothing done to meaningfully implement UNDRIP.

Mr. Speaker, at a very minimum, I would have expected the government to have released by now a view of what they think they are doing that implements each article of the declaration, an analysis of what we are already doing very well and perhaps some areas of improvement. I would have expected legislation that was similar to BC or Canada in this area that binds the government to commit to providing an action plan, yet, Mr. Speaker, at this point, we have nothing to look for. There is no public document about what we are actually doing to implement UNDRIP. What is our interpretation of free, prior, and informed consent? I do not know these. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Premier about whether any progress will be done by this Assembly on either of our main priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1215-19(2):
FUEL PRICES IN NUNAKPUT
COMMUNITIES

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk about the fuel prices in my riding of Nunakput, Mr. Speaker. Across Canada, it seems year over year significant increases in the fuel prices turn, and it raises the price of overall cost of living in our riding. Mr. Speaker,

my riding, we rely on fuel for everything - transportation, to heat our homes, to hunt. In essence, Mr. Speaker, we basically need fuel to live.

When the prices get bad in the south, it even gets worse in the Beaufort Delta and Nunakput. Three or four communities in my riding have the price our fuel set by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Current gasoline prices, GNWT, for Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok, and Sachs Harbour are \$2.12 per litre, and \$2.09 and \$2.05 respectively. As October 25th, the prices of regular gasoline in Tuktoyaktuk, \$2.31 a litre and \$2.60 a litre for diesel at the pump. Mr. Speaker, prices are more than \$0.30 higher than the gas pumps here in Yellowknife. Every time an increase in the price of fuel, Mr. Speaker, serious negative effects on the people of Nunakput.

Nunakput already faces the highest cost of living in the NWT. The senior heating subsidy in 2022-2023 additional payment on the GNWT announced in September is good but it's not good enough to cover the rising fuel costs for our elders and our single-parent families.

The government needs to find a solution to mitigate the rising cost of living for the residents in Nunakput. Mr. Speaker, we have to do more. We have to reign in the fuel costs is a place to start. I'll have questions for the finance minister at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1216-19(2):
PUBLIC HOUSING ARREARS

MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Speaker, housing has a cyclical effect in the NWT. Where housing is inadequate or unsuitable in small communities, the cost of housing is unaffordable in Yellowknife. Inaccessible housing, housing in disrepair, or simply not enough housing and lack of local resources and employment funnel NWT residents into our territory's capital. According to the Bureau of Statistics, 17 of our 33 communities lost residents from 2020 to 2021. Housing plays a significant role in supporting community residency and in turn Arctic sovereignty.

Housing NWT maintains a suite of housing programs, including home purchase, home repair, and public housing. But NWT residents with public housing arrears cannot put their names on public housing NWT waitlists or access housing purchase or repair programs.

The Standing Committee on Social Development traveled to multiple communities across the NWT to hear from residents about homelessness prevention. I want to thank NWT residents who shared candidly with committee and invited us into their homes.

One family we met lives in a renovated work trailer from the 1980s with 10 family members from three generations. Their home has no working furnace, dangerous electrical, and a bed in every space. This family does not qualify for home repair programs and cannot put their names on public housing waitlist because they have arrears from decades ago.

A second person we met was an 87-year-old elder who is still working to pay off their public housing arrears while staying housed. This elder is not employed and uses their pension to make payments leaving this resident with \$300 a month for the rest of their living expenses.

Housing NWT's own arrears collection principles stipulate that Housing NWT will adhere to a standardized and consistent approach to collections; that arrears should be collected in a timely and efficient manner; that tenants and clients should not accumulate large rental and mortgage arrears that are difficult to collect; and, that arrears should be forgiven where collection is not possible.

Mr. Speaker, how does collecting arrears from an 87-year-old elder adhere to the principles of collection? How does holding a family accountable to unaffordable arrears from decades ago and, in the process, withholding access to housing programs adhere to the principles of collections? If housing is a human right, why do we have housing policies that force people to prove they deserve to be housed, that they deserve dignity, rather than policies that meet people where they are at and access a toolbox to achieve the goal of housing Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1217-19(2):
MEDICAL TRAVEL BENEFITS INEQUALITY

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

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the people in small communities with a Government of the Northwest Territories job, there is one level of healthcare service, and for non-government

employees, there appears to be another level of healthcare services.

Mr. Speaker, we have two systems of medical travel in the NWT, one for GNWT workers (where hotels, car rentals, and daily food expenses are covered more than enough expenses) and another system for non-GNWT, people largely covered by non-insured health benefits. The healthcare service is considerably different for residents who receive healthcare services as covered by non-insured health benefits.

I hear from constituents about their travel experiences, where there is no flexibility in their travel, negative experiences in their stay at the boarding home, limited budget for food and expenses; and further, lack of coverage for escorts.

Mr. Speaker, many in my riding, or in the NWT, require an escort due to language barriers. This basic need must be considered to ensure NWT residents are receiving equitable access to healthcare services. Mr. Speaker, without medical travel escorts, we expect our most vulnerable to go on their own to a big city they are not familiar with; navigate a complex health system they don't know; know what to ask for in English; interpret and consider the information and consequences; advocate for themselves; and, potentially make life-changing decisions without family or loved ones on their own.

This is not a trauma-informed policy, Mr. Speaker. This is a policy that puts our people knowingly at risk. And if this is not enough, Mr. Speaker, to top it off, we go ahead and treat them as second-class citizens with small per diems.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Medical Travel Policy is to give NWT residents access to insured services not available in their home community. The purpose is not to expose already vulnerable residents to anxiety, trauma and further health risks. I will have questions for the Minister of Health later today. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1218-19(2):
CLOSURE OF TRAILCROSS TREATMENT
CENTRE

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on August 2ND, 2022, the Minister of Health sent me an email providing advance notification that the Trailcross Treatment Centre in Fort Smith would be

closing at the end of October. The Trailcross Treatment Centre is a group home for youth which takes in young people from across the NWT between ages 12 and 18. Since the 1970s this facility has provided treatment for youth experiencing addiction, trauma, and behavioural issues.

Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate to see the closure of this facility because it has been a mainstay in Fort Smith for many years now. I have heard from several constituents, including educators, who are concerned about the closure of Trailcross, as it has been used quite frequently used by local youth in Fort Smith. Parents and teachers use Trailcross a lot to help children who are at risk of suicide and for those experiencing mental health issues. It is regrettable that health and social staff across the NWT did not work to ensure that the Trailcross was being properly utilized by youth more regularly to avoid closure.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the occupancy rate for Trailcross has been declining over the last three years, except that the 2.5 years were during a pandemic, so the occupancy numbers would surely have gone down partly because of that.

In my email I asked the Minister to reconsider this decision and find another contractor to continue

operations at Trailcross. However, the department has decided to take this opportunity to review and assess the current mental health and addictions services for youth and communities in the NWT.

Well, Mr. Speaker, given this situation and considering the state of peoples' general mental health since the pandemic, I remain very concerned about the mental health and addiction services, both for the people of Fort Smith and for the people across the NWT. I do not want to see a disruption or reduction of services for my community and the broader NWT.

So I gave Minister Green a few suggestions for what the old Trailcross building could be used for. Among those suggestions was to convert the building into a territorial aftercare facility for people experiencing addiction. Because of the way the facility was built, it makes it an ideal location to house both male and female clients in a separate way but under the same roof. Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, I would really like to see the old Trailcross building to continue to be used to help people. Specifically, I would prefer to see it continue to be used to provide mental health and wellness for Fort Smith and the people of the NWT. I

believe the Minister is receptive to some of my ideas on this subject, so I will have questions for the Minister of Health on this at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1219-19(2):
ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF MINERAL
RESOURCE SECTOR

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret how important the mineral resource sector is to the Northwest Territories' economy. This reliance is so great that we have spent a lot of time in this Assembly talking about it and we made it one of our priorities. However, the unfortunate reality of a post-pandemic world is that these efforts have done little to advance any other sector. None can come remotely close to touching the direct and indirect benefits of our resource sector.

As of 2020, mining, oil, and gas directly represented 25 percent of our GDP. Even as the mining sector recovers post-pandemic, exploration, production, and sales are still below pre-pandemic levels. Diamond mines are currently the commodity that drives the NWT's resource sector but are set to cease production by 2030. 2030, Mr. Speaker. In a mere eight years we will see the closure of Diavik in 2025, Ekati in 2028, and finally Gahcho Kue in 2030. Mr. Speaker, we should all be very concerned about the potential closure of these mines and what this means for our future.

The economy of the NWT is dependent on a robust, prosperous mineral exploration sector and the subsequent opening of new mines. Currently there are no planned expansions for the diamond mines, therefore our territory is about to become very dependent on the development of metal mines. However, we also know metal mines planned for this decade, quote "will only moderately offset the declining production of the NWT's diamond mines" as per ITI's business plan.

One hopeful mining project for the Northwest Territories is Osisko Metals' Pine Point site which is projected to start construction in the next few years. Over the projected 12-year mine life, starting in 2028, the Pine Point project is expected to produce an annual average of 329 million pounds of zinc and 141 million pounds of lead.

On October 13th, Osisko Metals announced the signing of an MOU with the Power

Corporation that outlines the process of negotiating a power connection to the Taltson hydroelectric grid as well as power purchase agreements. For several years Talston has generated between 3.5 to 8 megawatts of excess power, which has been underutilized.

Mr. Speaker, we are a territory dependent on mineral resource development with a bleak economic outlook, increasing power rates, and yet we literally have power spilling over existing hydro infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, how can we ensure that Osisko Metals, and other development projects in the South Slave Region, are incentivized to purchase this power? I will have questions for the Minister of ITI at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1220-19(2):
COURT DECISION REGARDING SEARCH
OF LUTSELK'E CULTURAL CAMP

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the mandate of this Assembly calls on the Government of the Northwest Territories to build a productive partnership with Indigenous governments. The Premier, in the mandate letter given to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, wrote that "I expect every Minister to foster constructive and respectful government-to-government relationships with our Indigenous partners, and to seek ways to advance reconciliation, and recognize and affirm Aboriginal rights." The mandate letter also stated that "It is critical to address the ongoing legacies of colonialism and devastating impacts that it had on Indigenous people's culture."

That's why it's hard for me to understand what happened yesterday in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.

GNWT lawyers acknowledged that the search warrant obtained by ENR officers for a raid on the Lutselk'e Dene First Nation cultural camp at Thaidene Nene last month was issued "without lawful authority." Plainly, Mr. Speaker, this means that ENR officers violated the constitutionally-protected Charter and Treaty rights of Indigenous People.

There were 80 people there, including elders and children who, under threat of arrest, had to stand by while ENR officers searched their dwellings and seized belongings. It was a return to the colonial days and colonial ways. All of this was done without lawful authority.

Now, the whole world is watching, and what we do next?

Mr. Speaker, there can be no excuse - we need to make things right.

Yesterday, Chief Marlowe called for a formal apology from the Minister to the Lutselk'e First Nation and accountability from those who authorized this unlawful raid. The community is demanding the resignations of those who made this decision.

He is also asking for compensation on behalf of all of those who had their Charter rights violated and for a healing ceremony to help restore the relationship between the GNWT and the community.

Finally, Lutselk'e is also proposing a protocol for communication between the GNWT and the band council to ensure that there is proper communication about enforcement actions so that this situation will never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, the courts have said the search warrant was unlawful. This is the truth. Now we need reconciliation. I will have questions for the Minister of RWED at the appropriate time. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh. Members' statements. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1221-19(2):
AGING IN PLACE AND LONG-TERM CARE

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was raised my entire life from elders, not just my grandparents but many elders in my community. I owe it to them to ensure that they age in place with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, increasing the number of long-term beds has been a discussion in this Legislative Assembly since we began, as well as in the past government. Since I have been elected, we went from 48 beds to 16, maybe 18, but most recently 20 beds.

Mr. Speaker, we are again reinitiating with a new number back in a planning stage.

Mr. Speaker, I do agree that the money spent to keep our elders home and in their communities is the best possible solution. But when that is not possible, where do they go? From my understanding there is a territorial application for long-term care and they may get a bed in their region but not their community. There may not be enough beds, so they are moved away from their home, their region, their family, their culture.

Mr. Speaker, what happens to those who are in between and cannot live alone but may not fit the criteria for long-term care or their needs are low and due to that cannot get a bed. We have home care and home support staff and some seniors are lucky if they have family Members who will help, but even this is difficult because family still have to go to work And home care staff can't stay for hours with one client.

Mr. Speaker, we have done some pilot programs in the Northwest Territories, like the Pay Caregiver, and I know some Indigenous government may fund this type of assistance as well, but it is not consistent through the territory which leaves some families struggling and our elders at risk. I have even heard the comment that they should have Jordan's Principle or Inuit Child First for seniors, for some of the elders.

Mr. Speaker, we have a priority for our seniors to age in place with dignity But if they have no where to have supported living, what dignity are we providing? I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1222-19(2):
EULOGY FOR DARLENE GROSSETETE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Gloria Darlene Grossetete was born on November 22nd, 1971, in Fort Simpson. She passed away on March 7th, 2022, at the age of 51. It is never easy to say good-bye to someone who has been part of your life, especially a mother and sister. Darlene passed away approximately three plus weeks after her brother Ronnie passed away. The family lost two important people that they loved dearly. The passing of Darlene added to the hole in their hearts that Ronnie left.

Mr. Speaker, family and friends got together in Fort Simpson to celebrate Darlene's life and how she had impact on our lives and this is their way to honour her, because she did affect them in some way. It's not going to be easy to say goodbye.

At such a difficult time, it's important to remember the good memories we had of Darlene. By holding on to those memories, we can focus on the good times we had together and help each other find comfort in difficult times.

Darlene was always an honest person, a good listener, a good cook, and very generous with her time. In speaking with her daughter recently, she explained Darlene was about helping others, even sometime to a fault.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard to say good-bye to someone who has a big impact on their life. It's always hard to lose someone you know, to let go of her, and move on. By keeping those good memories in our hearts and minds, we can find comfort and Darlene will always be with us.

Darlene was predeceased by her parents and one brother. She leaves behind six children, four brothers, many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, the family would like to thank everyone for their support during their difficult time. She will be forever missed by the surviving family and friends. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and community. Members' statements. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Sahtu.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Ms. Diane Bailes from Deline and would like to welcome her to our proceedings. Mahsi.

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

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Iris Catholique. She's the management for Thaidene Nene from Lutselk'e Dene First Nation in the audience. And also Laura Michel, traditional knowledge activist for Lutselk'e Dene First Nation. And I'd like to recognize Paul Betsina, a band member and also from YKDFN. So mahsi, and welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Reports of standing and special committees. Member for Kam Lake.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

BILL 48:
ARBITRATION ACT

MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Social Development is pleased to provide its report on Bill 48, Arbitration Act, and commends it to the House.

Introduction

Bill 48, Arbitration Act, was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for review on March 30, 2022. A Plain Language Summary for Bill 48 was tabled on the same day.

Bill 48 proposes replacing the existing Northwest Territories Arbitration Act with a more modern law modelled after the Uniform Arbitration Act, known as the Model Act. The proposed new NWT arbitration governance includes updates on:

1. How to begin and conclude arbitration proceedings;
2. The composition of arbitral tribunals and the appointment and removal of arbitrators;
3. The jurisdiction of arbitral tribunals;
4. The matters of evidence and procedure, including the issuance of subpoenas and the giving of evidence by experts and other witnesses;
5. The granting of enforcement and interim measures and preliminary orders;
6. The making of arbitral awards and the awarding of costs;
7. The termination of arbitral proceedings;
8. The enforcement of arbitral awards, including awards made in the other jurisdictions in Canada;
9. Recourse against arbitral awards, including appeals; and
10. The confidentiality of arbitral proceedings.

The committee reviewed Bill 48 and accepted the new legislation without proposing changes. The committee did not receive any written or verbal submissions on Bill 48.

Mr. Speaker, through you I would like to pass the reading of this report to my colleague, the MLA for Great Slave. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Bill 48, Arbitration Act. Bill 48 is based on the Uniform Arbitration Act of 2016,

referred to as the Model Act in this report. The Model Act was prepared by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, an organization promoting uniformity of legislation in Canada.

The goal of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada is that jurisdictions adopt uniform or model acts to harmonize laws across the country through various forms of enactment, with changes related to drafting style with substantially the same wording, with modifications, or in part. The perception is that the closer a jurisdiction adheres to the Model Act, the greater the harmonization of law will be among Canadian jurisdictions.

Background

Previous national initiatives to align arbitration legislation reach back to the 1980s when Canada adopted the United Nations model law on international commercial arbitration. All Canadian jurisdictions except Quebec adopted the model law, including the NWT's International Commercial Arbitration Act.

In 2011, the Uniform Law Conference of Canada took on the task of reforming existing domestic arbitration legislation. This led to the development of the Model Act in 2016.

The Uniform Arbitration Act (2016)

The policy goal of the domestic Model Act is to increase the consistency in arbitration legislation across the country. Arbitration legislation recognizes the choice to arbitrate as a choice to participate in alternative dispute resolution in substitution for court litigations. Choosing alternative dispute resolution was not intended to replicate court processes or to be a precursor to court proceedings.

Since the publication of the Model Act on December 1, 2016, British Columbia adopted its arbitration statute in 2020 based on the Model Act. Domestic legislation of other jurisdictions predates the Model Act. The NWT would be the second Canadian jurisdiction to adopt modern domestic arbitration legislation.

Proposed Changes to the NWT Arbitration Act (1988)

Bill 48 replaces the existing Arbitration Act (1988) and is more specific, with 76 sections (or 45 pages) compared to 41 sections (or 11 pages). Key changes in Bill 48 include the following subject areas.

- Commencing Arbitral Proceedings: Bill 48 provides a clear procedure for starting proceedings, if not specified in the arbitration agreement;

- Direct Evidence of Witnesses: Bill 48 requires that witnesses' direct evidence be written, unless otherwise agreed by the parties or directed by the arbitrator;
- Interim Orders: Bill 48 provides a procedure for obtaining and enforcing interim measures and a specific procedure for obtaining preliminary orders without notice to other parties;
- Appeals: Bill 48 provides the right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. It details where a Supreme Court decision cannot be appealed and where a decision of the Supreme Court may be further appealed to the Court of Appeal, for example, subsection 25(3) jurisdictional decision and awards, and that parties may opt out of appeal rights;
- Confidentiality: Bill 48 expressly prohibits the disclosure of confidential information;
- Expanded Powers and Duties of Arbitrators: Bill 48 provides that arbitrators must consider equitable rights and defences in addition to legal principles and gives express power to arbitrators to make cost awards where conduct has increased the costs;
- Enforcing Arbitral Awards from other Canadian Jurisdictions: Bill 48 provides that parties may apply to the Northwest Territories Supreme Court to recognize and enforce arbitral awards made in another Canadian jurisdiction.

Committee Consideration.

The committee noted that Bill 48 did not adopt all proposed wording of the Model Act. Considering that the purpose of the Model Act is to enable legislation in all jurisdictions to be alike, Members inquired with the Department of Justice, or "the department" on the reasons for the divergences.

After deliberating on multiple sections of Bill 48, the committee understands that the reasons leading to variation from the Model Act include NWT drafting preferences and circumstances and the adoption of several changes to the Model Act made by British Columbia when their legislature considered the Model Act.

And I will finally pass this over to the Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh. Thank you.

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

MR. EDJERICON: All right, thank you.

Including a Purpose Clause

Committee noted that the purpose clause contained in the Model Act was not implemented in Bill 48. Section 1 of the Model Act states the broad purpose of arbitration as an alternative to court proceedings, the principles that parties are free to agree on most procedural matters, and that courts should not intervene except as described in the legislation.

On the other hand, purpose clauses may express the intent of a statute and intend to bridge a gap between policy and law. On the other hand, inserting purpose clauses may have risks by raising expectations or creating ambiguities. Where wording is short, it may not provide enough clarity. Where wording differs from the wording in the body of the Act, it may expand judicial intervention.

Bill 48 expresses the purpose and principles of arbitration in the provisions, and the committee understands that it is unnecessary and undesirable to include a purpose clause.

Defining "Award" and "Give"

Section 2 of the Model Act explains the meaning of words to remove ambiguity. The definitions for the words "award" and "give" were not adopted by Bill 48. An "award" in the Model Act means a final decision of an arbitral tribunal, and "give" is meant in relation to a record and includes the meaning to deliver or to serve.

The committee understands that not defining "award" allows case law to be applied rather than attempting to condense a large body of case law into what constitutes an "arbitral award." The province of British Columbia's arbitration legislation also does not define "award."

The committee recognizes that not defining "give" in Bill 48 is a drafting choice that aligns with the drafting styles followed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Other sections of Bill 48 speak of "delivering" a notice rather than "giving" a notice and are consistent with other NWT legislation.

Restricting the Altering of Provisions

Bill 48 did not adopt section 4(2) of the Model Act. Section 4(1) of the Model Act allows parties to contract out of the non-mandatory provisions. Section 4(2) lists sixteen conditions that parties would not be permitted to remove or modify in an arbitration agreement.

The committee appreciates the Department's drafting of not mirroring section 4 of the Model Act. Instead, Bill 48 treats each provision independently and includes the words "unless otherwise agreed by parties" before any section that the parties may alter. This approach is considered to be "clearer" because it avoids the need to cross-reference a list and flip back and forth through different sections in Bill 48. This decision also follows the approach taken in British Columbia.

The committee noted that reducing internal referencing contributes to the clarity of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to turn this over to MLA of Inuvik Twin Lakes. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER:

Adding Security Requirements for Interim Measures

Paragraph 1(e) of Bill 48, permitting security for costs as an interim measure, was added to the definition of "interim measure" to clarify whether an arbitral tribunal may order security for costs. The committee welcomed this alteration to the Model Act and noted that British Columbia made this same alteration.

Exempting Certain Government-to-Government Agreements via Regulations

Bill 48 contains a section not provided in the Model Act. Section 3(5)(b) allows the executive committee to prescribe agreements to which the Act should not apply. This is limited to agreements entered into by the GNWT or the Government of Canada and a government of another jurisdiction. This provision is not found in the Model Act.

The committee deliberated on the type of arbitration agreements this exemption would address. The committee sought clarification from the Minister during its clause-by-clause review of the bill.

The committee learned that certain agreements between provinces and territories might be exempt from Bill 48 because they would contain arbitration provisions and would not have the arbitration legislation from any jurisdiction apply. This exemption can be used for agreements between jurisdictions and includes national and international agreements.

The committee learned that the NWT is following British Columbia, which added this regulation-making power to its arbitration legislation. The province enacted regulations prescribing several agreements exempted under this arbitration legislation, including multiple free trade agreements and the bid protest mechanism applied in the western provinces of Canada.

Committee members acknowledged that the NWT wants the flexibility to create regulations exempting certain agreements in appropriate cases.

Defining Government

The committee observed that Section 3(5)(b) of Bill 48 does not define "government of another jurisdiction." The committee noted that Indigenous governments were not specifically referenced, as they have been in other NWT legislation such as the Access to Information and Privacy Protection Act and the Mineral Resources Act.

The committee asked for clarification from the Minister on whether Indigenous governments could be included under "the government of another jurisdiction." The department confirmed that there would be no reason Indigenous governments could not be included. Committee members were satisfied with the response.

I now pass it to MLA for Monfwi. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Member for Monfwi.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

Choosing an "Opt-out" Approach to Appeals on Questions of Law

Section 61 of Bill 48 provides the right to appeal on questions of law directly to the courts unless their agreement expressly prohibits such appeals. This is different from the Model Act's section 65, which allows appeals only if the arbitration agreement provides for such appeals. The Model Act assumed that appeals on questions of law would be permitted on an opt-in basis whereas in Bill 48 appeals are allowed unless the parties opt-out.

Committee members understand adopting the "opt-out" was a deliberate policy decision and that it follows the British Columbia legislation. The committee understands and accepts that this approach is an appropriate balance for the NWT.

Applying Bill 48 to Family Law

Following the Model Act, Bill 48 proposes to be a law of general application. Committee members wanted to know if Bill 48 could apply to family law in the NWT.

The committee appreciates that the nature of Bill 48 is that it is more likely to be used in commercial matters; however, we note that arbitrations may, in the future, be a valuable way of dealing with family law matters. The committee understands that if the NWT were to proceed to use arbitration to address family law matters, consultation would occur with the family law bar, and specific arbitration provisions for family law may be desirable.

Reflecting Circumstances of the Northwest Territories

The department expects that Bill 48 will have applications outside of a commercial context. For example, it can be used in the context of labour arbitrations. Further, the department is aware that the Department of Finance is working on changes to the Public Service Act. Should it be considered that more specific default arbitration rules are necessary to respond to circumstances in the NWT concerning labour arbitrations, the committee understands that the Public Service Act could set out these rules. For example, British Columbia's labour relations code sets arbitration rules and makes the province's Arbitration Act inapplicable.

Engaging in the Development of Bill 48

Committee members asked whether the department had engaged with professional mediators, arbitrators, or associations of mediators or arbitrators working in the NWT and industries such as construction, exploration, and mining. The Minister advised that the department had consulted with the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, the Canadian Bar Association, and the judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass this on to MLA from Kam Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Monfwi. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Clause-by-clause review

The clause-by-clause review of Bill 48 was held on October 11, 2022.

Conclusion

Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 48, Arbitration Act, as ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. This concludes the Standing Committee on Social Development's review of Bill 48. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Great Slave, that the Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Bill 48, Arbitration Act, be received and adopted by the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that the Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Bill 48, Arbitration Act, be received and adopted by the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 48 has been received and adopted by the Assembly.

Reports of standing and special committees. Returns to oral questions. Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 1216-19(2):
IMPACT OF CARBON TAXATION ON COST
OF LIVING

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT, CRA provides a cost of living offset to individuals in the program to offset the costs of territorial carbon tax. Can the Minister of Finance look into implementing the cost of living to offset that IT provides Nunakput residents in the Beaufort Delta with the same assistance because it recognize their higher cost of living in a tiered system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, we are later -- well, I guess in 2023, facing a prospect of the federal government having changed the carbon tax system. As such, we are in a position having to amend our carbon tax system to be compliant. It is going to have an impact on residents in the North notwithstanding the fact that we are not well-placed to respond to carbon tax changes and respond to the need to reduce GHG emissions as other jurisdictions in the south might be.

I am particularly cognizant, Mr. Speaker, ridings such as Nunakput, are especially going to be hard hit. They are already facing higher costs in this regard. So what I will commit to doing is looking at whether that is even possible. Negating the carbon signal is the issue that we cannot do, otherwise the federal system will come in and remove any ability that we might have for flexibility. So I will look into whether it's even possible to do that, Mr. Speaker, and will then get back to the MLA. Thank you

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And yeah, no, I'm just wondering if the Minister could work with our Minister of ECE to explore expanded home heating subsidy program for our Arctic region for our elders and people, private homeowners, that are in that system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, again, much of a similar response in that I'm certainly happy to work with my colleague. Obviously, you know, we certainly do have responsibility under the carbon tax in the Department of Finance but then the subsidy rests with ECE. So I know that there's some work happening with the income assistance review, and so we will ensure that the two departments are speaking to one another about the perspective impacts of the carbon tax issue and then looking at how that might be addressed, if possible, under programs under another department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking back, I guess I try to cross the whole Northwest Territories, I think we should be talking to Canada now in regards to the carbon tax and why do we have to pay? We're small enough in the territory. We have 35,000 people. It's just going to draw more hardship on our families, our young mothers in social housing in regards to -- and our elders that are private homeowners. There needs be more money given out instead of being starting to try to claw back. Can the Minister commit to

talking to Canada in regards to working with them to see if we could, you know, not have to pay; do we have to pay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a situation of jurisdiction at hand and the federal government does have a jurisdiction. There's been challenges by other jurisdictions around carbon pricing and carbon tax systems. I certainly will commit to continuing the conversation. I want to make clear that there have been conversations between officials from the Department of Finance but as well as officials within other departments who are also taking a lead on climate change or climate change impacts here in the Northwest Territories. But Mr. Speaker, I most certainly will continue to raise the issue. And I appreciate the questions and the support that I think for the position of raising the needs of the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we live climate change every day where we are from. I have shoreline erosion programs. I have so much going on. We have colder winters, more -- a lot less snow but colder, longer periods of time. You know that, you live up back in the Delta with us. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day this carbon tax has to be really looked at and either make it help me help you. Put a tiered system in. Tier one Yellowknife, tier two Sahtu, tier three Beaufort Delta. Pretty simple. If they could do that and then talking again to talk to Canada, why do we have to pay? We're the most affected territory in the most weather compliant region in the whole of the Northwest Territories where I'm from. We can't keep going the way we're going here. I mean, it's tough for people to survive already. And here we're going to get dinged with another tax. Not right. Mr. Speaker, can I have the commitment from the Minister that she's going to talk to Canada and report back the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, that's a responsibility of all Ministers certainly to be engaging with our counterparts. We all have been engaging with our counterparts. I am more than happy to make the commitment to raise quite specifically, you know, what the Member from Nunakput has said around the impacts of climate change on the North and then the impacts of the carbon pricing system which is within the responsibility of the

Department of Finance. So I'll certainly carry that message forward. Again, I'm not -- don't know how much of a response I will get. There have been a number of different challenges across country on carbon tax and none of which have thus far changed the system. But the situation here, I get it, is serious. I will report back on what we hear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1217-19(2):
FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND
PREPAREDNESS

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my statement, spring breakup is six months away. So it is important this government has a plan in place with measures to mitigate potential flooding for Hay River. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of ENR considered establishing a group within his department to take on the responsibility for flood and ice management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, MACA is leading ENR supporting information. ENR provides Municipal and Community Affairs with support role in flood management. ENR monitors and evaluates water and climate conditions prior to ice breakup every spring to help determine the level of risk of flooding. ENR shares its NWT snow surveys results and spring water level outlook for 2022 with MACA and public for emergency preparedness purposes. During the freshet and flood situation, daily water monitoring bulletins are shared with emergency management organizations and are available to the public via email, the ENR website, and through social media. These bulletins include information on water levels, ice conditions, weather forecasting, and photo and satellite imagery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All that, and we still flooded. Mr. Speaker, what direction, if any, has the Minister provided to his department to start assessing how the department can work both internally and with Indigenous governments, with communities, and with residents, to develop policy and work plans to deal with flood and ice management for Hay River and the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could control Mother Nature, we wouldn't be flooding, and I thank the Member who keeps on asking these type of questions as we move forward. Municipal and Community Affairs again leads ENR supporting information. The GNWT does not have an ice management program policy related to flooding because ice jam flooding is difficult to predict and cannot be actively managed. Ice jam occurs when ice chunks in the rivers do not melt fast enough and collide with each other. Ice jamming floods can happen any year and are dependent on the way ice breaks up in the river channel. Under the Emergency Measurement Act, community governments are responsible for developing and maintaining emergency plans and programs related to a wide variety of disasters, including floods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, we can sit here and say that, you know, we can't predict this and we can't predict that. But if we do nothing, then I know we won't be able to predict anything. But we have to make some educated decisions. We have to use, you know, Indigenous knowledge and, you know, if we're going to move ahead in trying to, you know, lessen the impact of the damages caused by flooding.

So, Mr. Speaker, has the Minister initiated any discussions with the Alberta government, or any Hay River Basin management organizations south of the border, to talk about what can be done to alleviate potential water flow during spring to minimize flooding in the community of Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll wear my ENR hat on this one. So the GNWT and Alberta share information about the Hay River throughout the year, through the GNWT and Alberta Transboundary Water Agreement and its bilateral management committee. The data is used to inform the spring water level outlook that is shared with MACA and the public for emergency preparedness purposes. It is not possible to alleviate water flow on the Hay River as there is no control structure such as dams along it. That said, ENR is working with federal governments and other GNWT departments to create a hazard and risk management plains map in locations that experience ice jamming flooding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's important that if we're gathering this information, you know, we're studying, we're developing plans, that we communicate that to the public as well so they know what's going on so they know we're actually doing something because, you know, most people look at it and, you know, they look at Hay River, they say well, what do we have for monitoring? Well, we got a couple of cameras on the river and we have an airplane that flies over us and says yeah, the water's getting higher. And that's about it. And that's people's understanding.

So Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of MACA, or ENR, going forward, commit to a public meeting in Hay River to discuss how his departments will address the practices of assessing, monitoring, and planning for flooding and emergency preparedness in Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is a MACA question. The emergency manager organizations work with all departments, including ENR. The department maintains contact with ENR prior to and throughout the flood season to monitor water levels. Municipal and Community Affairs offers ongoing assistance to assist communities with emergency preparedness including delivery of community emergency planning workshops, delivery of tabletop exercise material so communities can run through a mock scenario to ensure roles and responsibilities are well known before an event, distribution of community emergency planning tools and templates, preparation assistance in community planning. So we work with the municipal governments. We have staff that will go in there and work with them. So, again, if that's what the Member wants and the community wants, we'll make sure staff gets in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1218-19(2):

AGING IN PLACE AND LONG-TERM CARE

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, my questions are for the health minister, and since I got in the House, you know, the fluctuations of the amount of beds that were going to my community went from 48 to this final number now is 20. So I'm just wondering -- the first question I have for the Minister, why is this fluctuation continuously changing? Thank you

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

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for the question.

Mr. Speaker, in 2015, we created bed projections based on historic occupancy of the long-term care and projections of the population going forward. We had reason to revisit that in 2020, and we learned that in fact there weren't as many beds required all across the NWT as we previously thought. And so at that time the bed projections were revised, and 20 is the number, as my colleague said, for Inuvik. Thank you

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I know there's -- we have had a pilot program that the government has had since -- I think it was announced February 2020 on the Paid Caregiver Pilot Program, and I know that it was only in so many communities. So I'm just wondering now that this two year has passed, is this program continuing, or is it still going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Paid Family Caregiver Program was indeed a pilot project. It has been evaluated and found to be worthwhile in the communities where it's operating, which is -- I don't remember off the top of my head exactly but it was about half a dozen communities and 30 clients. There is money for this fiscal year. There is money for next fiscal year. And we're looking to continue the program indefinitely. Thank you

MS. SEMMLER: All right, thank you. The reason I'm asking is, you know, I've had other people have contacted me in regards to this program, because it was a pilot, and they contacted it that it was not -- it was being reviewed. So I'm just clarifying that if it is continuing, that's great. Can the Minister advise if this program will be in all the communities now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have enough money to continue running the program at the scale it's at now. In order to have a larger program, we would need a greater investment from the federal government who pays for a portion of home and community care and has been paying for this program. Thank you

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

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my past career, I know that this was something that the Indigenous governments did talk about and so I'm just wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister has been discussing this possibly with Indigenous governments and then they can access more federal dollars together, and maybe the Indigenous governments could run this program for their seniors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these programs are community run at this point so it is possible to have Indigenous governments or Indigenous government organizations provide these programs in the communities as well as municipal entities and non-profits. So we would certainly welcome that. At this point, there hasn't been a wholesale transfer only to one kind of entity such as an Indigenous government. Thank you

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

QUESTION 1219-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES PROGRESS ON RIGHTS
AGREEMENTS AND UNITED NATIONS
DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACTION PLAN

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier. The mandate commits us to an UNDRIP action plan for summer 2022. Obviously, summer has passed, and we have not seen that action plan. So when can we expect to see that, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Honourable Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was looking back on the mandate actually, and we're not that behind actually. It said September -- or summer 2020; it's in the mandate, however we had two years of COVID so I'm actually feeling pretty good about this one.

I'm hoping that the Member did get an update from the -- because the MLA is a Member of the special committee on reconciliation, and so I'm hoping that he got an update from the September meeting that just happened. At that meeting, we were really close to signing an MOU on the action plan for the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous People. There was a bit of a pull back at the end, but we're still in the process. Right up until last night we were in meetings. So I'm thinking that within the

next few days that we'll actually have an MOU, memorandum of understanding. But it was really clear from the Indigenous governments as we started this work that they said you can't do an action plan, it has to be done in collaboration and cooperation directly with the Indigenous governments. I've said that all along, Mr. Speaker. This is about the Indigenous governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try this again. I heard the Premier hoping that soon we will have an MOU. But my understanding was that that was an MOU of how to go about and create an action plan which seems quite a ways off from the actual plan. So when can we expect to see an actual UNDRIP action plan, and will it be in the life of this Assembly more importantly, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the clarification from the Member.

The memorandum of understanding with the Indigenous governments is around development of a plan to get us to the legislation of whatever that will look like. My commitment is as soon as that is signed, and I'm hoping that'll be actually within this session; I've been pushing as much as I can, still being respectful. As soon as that is provided or signed by all the Indigenous governments, I will provide an update to the appropriate standing committee at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in a similar vein, the mandate committed to signing two agreements in the realm of treaty land or self-government implementation. I'm just wondering if the Premier can update this House whether she still believes we can sign two agreements in the life of this Assembly. Thank you

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am sure hopeful to be able to get two signed by the end of this government. The MLA did refer to the last one was signed in 2015. I do need to remind MLAs that although they're signed that day, it doesn't usually take -- some of these are 20, 30 years of process to actually get these defined. There's three parties to the table, and I'm doing our part. Some of the things that the Indigenous governments said was we don't like the core principles and objectives. We took it out, this government. Some of them said we don't know what your negotiated mandates is. We published them, this government. So, Mr. Speaker, we're doing the

best we can to get these settled but it is three parties at the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Final supplementary. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that there's three parties but, you know, there's 17 tables and I think getting two agreements out of 17 seems -- well, I'm hopeful we can at least get there.

I guess the Premier is still hopeful too that we're going to get two. I'm wondering if she would inform this House, or if she's willing to hint at what two she thinks that would be. And I'm also curious whether in that counting that the Premier is including agreements-in-principle because I know we've signed a number of agreements-in-principle that are -- well, they're over 20 years old now at this point so they don't necessarily lead to an actual final agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I won't in the public House name the ones that I think we're close on. We are close on some. I would give a briefing to standing committee if that is decided by the appropriate standing committee. The problem is is that I think we're one step forward and then something happens, and we're two steps back. So because of that I can't say it publicly. But I'd be more than willing to give a briefing in confidence to the appropriate standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1220-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES SUPPORT FOR THE
MINERAL RESOURCE SECTOR

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of ITI, or as my colleague likes to call her, the Minister of mining. Can the Minister -- which I think is a good thing, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Minister speak to how the GNWT is facilitating the purchase of the excess hydro power from the Taltson hydro dam for mines or other development projects in the South Slave Region? It seems like a real untapped potential there. Thank you

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to speak to this. I mean, obviously just, you know, noting firstly that the NTPC obviously is responsible for managing its own affairs. That said, I do have the opportunity to meet with their officers and staff and the Minister responsible, and it just so turns out that the Minister responsible and myself are on the steering committee for the Taltson hydro project. So lots of opportunity in that respect to ensure that all the right parties are alive and aware of what projects are in the region, the timeline of the various projects in the region, what their potential needs for power and power generation might be, and it certainly has been my experience in this role, Mr. Speaker, that NTPC's very interested in signing MOUs with projects that they, I believe, have advanced doing exactly that, signing MOUs both for excess power as it is already, but also with an eye on the Taltson refurbishment and the Taltson expansion. So all of which is to say, Mr. Speaker, it has been my experience that these things are happening in conjunction, one with the other, and that all the right players are speaking to each other to be ready to take advantage of this opportunity. Thank you

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm super glad to hear the Minister speak about a coordinated approach and sort of being proactive with the players in the region given that I can't think of how many times I've heard oh, if we just knew that was going on, we would have jumped on board. So great to hear that the Minister's coordinating that.

Given that our dependence in the next while is going to be on metal mining as the diamond mines sunset, can the Minister speak to what is being done and how the GNWT is supporting the expansion or exploration for new metal mines? I can't stress enough how important it is given that they are seven to ten times smaller than a diamond mine's revenue output. Thank you

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me just quickly start by saying that I certainly haven't shut the door on the possibilities around the diamond mines, that there is still exploration happening. And while it looks likely that at least one of them will be on its closure date, the others are, you know, I'd like to say that let's just not shut

that door just yet. My hope is a little more positive and optimistic.

But as for metal mining, Mr. Speaker, we do have a mineral development strategy. It does need to be updated but it is there. It was developed in conjunction with industry. It is helping to guide some of the programs that we have now. There's the mineral incentive program that continues to be well subscribed that leverages private funds. There, of course, is our CSCR folks, client services client relations, who we always hear good things about, to support projects at all stages moving through the regulatory process. There, of course, now is Indigenous capacity building to help support Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to build their capacity in this space. And, Mr. Speaker, and in general a lot of what we do, and certainly what I am responsible for doing, is getting the word out about the incredible potential that is there. We take that very seriously. And with COVID restrictions behind us, there's been no end of interest and opportunity both for people to travel here and learn about our opportunities and for us to take ourselves to the right organizations and to the right conferences. So, Mr. Speaker, I am, in short, quite confident that there's a lot of interest and that investments will follow with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm really glad to hear that the Minister's feeling optimistic about the diamond mines. You know, I guess I'm at a point of preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. So it is good to hear that there is a potential but we do know that with the ones that will sunset, it is going to create a bit of an economic hole for us.

Given that the Minister brought this up, I think it's a good opportunity to speak to the Indigenous capacity building. It's my understanding in the past that that money was used for us to take people from Indigenous governments and organizations to conferences like round up; however, now that money is being put in the hands of those Indigenous people themselves for them to decide how they want to spend, which I think is great. So can the Minister speak a little more to how she sees that rolling out and the reception from the Indigenous governments to those changes. Thank you

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a fairly new roll out. There certainly has been funds available prior to now but it was ad hoc whereas now there is a more formalized process by which interested parties

can apply. There are, you know, maximums and some eligibility requirements. But in short, Mr. Speaker, it is meant to be a fund that formalizes an opportunity. So precisely as is asked, that governments and organizations can apply, have money to attend conferences, to attend training, to bring training into their communities and to their people. It is being run as a pilot. And I just say that because that allows an opportunity, if there's things in the eligibility or things in the process that the relevant organizations want to see changed, then this is an opportunity to do that so that going forward this program can achieve its goal of better empowering the people on whose lands these projects potentially would be on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the Minister knows I'm a really big fan of the iterative process. So I'm glad to hear that, you know, we are looking at this as something that we are going to adapt and change as we get more feedback from the users of the system.

My last question I think just has to speak around Indigenous ownership. I believe there's been some information in the media around, you know, people sort of being window dressing as they take part in ceremonies and such but I think it's really important to clarify the record that the rare earth mine that is operating in the Northwest Territories is run by an Indigenous-owned organization through Cheetah Resources hiring them.

So can the Minister speak a little bit more, do we have any more of these types of agreements in the works or coming down the line? To me, Indigenous ownership in mining is the only way to go forward in this territory so I hope to hear that there's some coming. Thank you

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't necessarily speak to what might be happening mine by mine or project by project. Certainly what I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that indeed, yes, at the Nechalacho Project, Deton Cho are, indeed, the miners of that project. They are the ones running the contract and doing the mining. That is, I think, perhaps maybe a first in Canada; certainly a first in the Northwest Territories. And I can't agree more, this is the way of the future, and it is -- you know, I think it is something where we are starting to see access to equity change, access to whether it's low interest loans or various other forms of capital opportunity. The federal government seems to be live to that. They seem to be

looking to create these types of funds. They've put a lot of money into the First Nations Major Project Coalition. So I think there's a lot happening in this space right now, Mr. Speaker. It is certainly an opportunity for us to make sure we are at the front-end of that. That is my message when I go out, is that the federal government and projects need to be, from day one, working with the people on whose lands their projects are on and they will, indeed, see that that brings certainty and prosperity to the projects and to the whole of the project.

So there's, I think, a tremendous possibility here in the Northwest Territories and with a lot -- this is where having mines at the early stage means we're at the right stage to see that happen here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1221-19(2):
CLOSURE OF TRAILCROSS TREATMENT
CENTRE

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Health explain why the Department of Health is not renewing the current contractor and where they are not seeking any new contractors to keep the Trailcross Treatment Centre open? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question and the opportunity to talk about this issue.

The situation is that attendance at the Trailcross treatment facility has declined over the last several years. At the end of May, it was 12.5 percent. There is no waiting list. There are no outstanding applications. And the best practice now is not to treat youth and children in institutional settings but rather to create closer to home therapeutic foster homes for children who need and youth who need this kind of care. Thank you

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us if there are any plans in place for what the old Trailcross building will be used for once the treatment centre is closed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. What's happening now, given that this contract

expires next Monday, is that the Department of Health and Social Services is reviewing the services and programming that was delivered at Trailcross to develop a plan to assist youth in other ways. Therapeutic foster homes is one that I just mentioned.

So there is an analysis going on of next steps for programming. And once those steps have been completed at the end of this calendar year, a decision will be made about whether Trailcross as a building is part of this or whether Trailcross will be surplus. Thank you

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister consider converting the old Trailcross building in Fort Smith into a new territorial aftercare facility for the people of the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point I don't think there is a plan for Trailcross. This work that I described in my previous answer needs to take place first. I don't know anything about the age and the condition of the building and whether it needs repairs before it becomes whatever it's going to be next. So these are very much live questions, and I appreciate the Member's interest in creating an aftercare facility. I think that there's some potential that we could repurpose surplus buildings for those kind of reasons, but we don't have a firm plan at this time. Thank you

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

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to have her department examine the possibility of converting the old Trailcross building into a territorial aftercare facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once we have finished the programming review, we'll have a better idea of what we're going to do with the building. Thank you

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

QUESTION 1222-19(2):
MEDICAL TRAVEL BENEFITS INEQUALITY

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are about 6,000 Government of the Northwest Territories employees. Over 3,000 positions are located in Yellowknife. We can only assume roughly one out of four, or one out of five people, are employed by GNWT. In the Tlicho

communities and other small communities, we see what limited GNWT jobs that the majority of residents are eligible for only those benefits covered by non-insured health benefits.

Minister Green, can you please explain why the GNWT provides healthcare service for employees that is different from the healthcare service provided by the non-GNWT employees? Thank you

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

HON. JULIE GREEN: Yes, thank you it's true that there is a two-tier approach. There are people who have insurance through their employer, including the GNWT, maybe through the federal government, through the school boards and so on, and people who don't, and the approaches are different and the benefits are different; one of the reasons that we are currently reviewing the supplementary health benefits. So the concept of providing benefits to employees is to compensate them, as part of their compensation, and it's also a part of the -- usually the retention strategy that people want employees to have these benefits so that they remain working for them.

I recognize that there's a disparity between the amount of employment available in the small communities and in Yellowknife. But benefit programs don't take that into account. It's really about whether you are working for an employer with a private insurance plan or whether you are using the public insurance, which is NIHB and Metis health benefits. Thank you

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: So what this means is that the GNWT's employees are treated better than the members of the public. So that's what it's saying. So, Mr. Speaker, I hear from constituents in my ridings how difficult it can be to navigate the healthcare system while on medical travel. Will the Minister commit to hiring people to work with and support Northerners as they navigate the healthcare system while out of the territory? Thank you

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a trial project in Edmonton called Gobacare, which is being offered by Sahtu beneficiary, to help people in Edmonton navigate their appointments. And that's something that the Department of Health and Social Services has been funding, and we're very interested to learn about the results and whether this is something we want to scale up. Thank you

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Well, that's good to know, that there is something in place so then this can be extended to other Indigenous organizations as well or Indigenous government.

What supports are in place for single parents who require medical treatment in the south with young children who they can't leave behind? Can the Minister commit to making young children eligible travel companions for people travelling south for medical care? Thank you

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for that question.

The criteria for escorts is set by Indigenous Services Canada which pays most of the \$44 million bill for medical travel each year. If the person receiving care is a minor, the parent goes with that child. But there is no provision at this point for the other children to go with that parent.

Having said that, I am aware of times where this issue has arisen and social services has been able to help with the voluntary services agreement. So if the Member knows of someone who needs this service, I suggest that they contact health and social services in their community and inquire. Thank you

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

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Thank you can the Minister detail how much GNWT employees contribute to health benefits and how much the GNWT pays?

HON. JULIE GREEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of compensation for GNWT benefits is handled by the Department of Finance, and so I don't have that information available. Thank you

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

QUESTION 1223-19(2):
PUBLIC HOUSING ARREARS

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of NWT Housing. Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering if, to start, the Minister can let the House know how -- or what portion of arrears, rather, are held by elders? Thank you

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

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for the question as well too, and I just wanted to just speak about our policy review that we are doing now, and I want to make this a priority when we are reviewing and considering the changes.

Right now, we don't have a database that separates those details. It's just mainly looking at arrears as a whole. I would have to get back to the Member with that information, specifically for arrears for seniors. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll be honest, I'm hoping that the information can be provided to the people of the Northwest Territories and not just myself. The principles of arrears collections states that arrears should be forgiven where collection is not possible but elders, not working and without income, are still expected to repay their public housing arrears. So I'm wondering without knowing how many of their residents are elders, how does NWT Housing -- or Housing NWT, sorry, determine if repayment is not possible from their clients? Thank you

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our main goal is to be working closely with the clients as best as possible for their current situation. In public housing, rent payments are calculated based on the Canada Revenue Agency information that is provided annually. Tenants at that -- to determine the tenant's income level. But I also want to include that the rent calculation is at 4 percent of their gross income, and the maximum rent is 19 percent of their gross income. Nationally, the standard is 30 percent. We are one of the lowest jurisdictions throughout Canada.

I also wanted to include that Housing NWT does follow the Financial Administration Act as well too, just for consideration if we are looking at forgivenesses or write-off, we have to make sure that we are in accordance with the legislation and required approval from the Financial Management Board. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that calculation that the Minister was talking about was for rent, not for the repayment of arrears. And so currently in the Northwest Territories, we have elders, at the age of 87, paying over half of their monthly income towards their arrears and for their housing. So their combined amount that they're paying back to Housing NWT exceeds half of what they're bringing in. That means an elder living in a small community in the

Northwest Territories is trying to pay for all the rest of their monthly expenses with less than \$300. And by my calculation, from my trips to the grocery store recently, that's about three and a half bags of groceries for an entire month.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister also stated that Housing NWT works closely with their clients to figure out what works for them, and if an elder is paying that much money towards their arrears, then that's not working closely with our elders.

So, Mr. Speaker, given the policy change that occurred earlier in this Assembly, where it was prohibited for elders to be charged rent based on income of adult children living in their unit as a means to prevent elder abuse, does Housing NWT intend to address the arrears that were accumulated by elders before the policy change that are still being held accountable for the arrears accumulated from the incomes that are not their own? Thank you

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for the question as well too that, you know, we are just in the middle right now of really working with our new mandate that we had published earlier this year as well, and I really appreciate the comments that are coming forward as well because it really drives the change on how it is that we're going to be looking at our programming and changing them as well too.

For the public housing tenants, they are encouraged to be going into the local housing authorities as well too, and moving to a month-to-month rent assessment as well and looking at the work that is done with the local housing authorities that we are -- we will be working more closely with our tenants so we could flag those issues and being able to provide more opportunity for the rent calculations and also for collecting of the arrears. This is something I would like to bring back to the department as well too and really look at those numbers that we actually do have that are outstanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, currently 487 former tenants of Housing NWT, and I'd like to point out that only 51 are from Yellowknife, so over 400 former tenants of Housing NWT currently owe about \$7.8 million in arrears owed to Housing NWT. These tenants are unable to put their names on waitlists for public housing, and they live in public housing dominated

communities. They're unable to access homeownership programs or home repair programs.

How does Housing NWT plan to address these arrears, given the reliance of many communities on Housing NWT public housing and programs, and is there a mechanism where residents can again gain access to these programs while they are still working at paying down their arrears? Thank you

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Housing NWT does allow applicants with rental arrears to be on the waitlist if they provide a repayment agreement in place to follow up with their application that they are submitting. For private homeowners, Mr. Speaker, homeowners in zone B and C in communities with mortgage arrears are still able to access our repair programs. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. CLEVELAND: I'll ask more if you let me.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 1224-19(2):
COURT DECISION REGARDING SEARCH
OF LUTSEL K'E CULTURAL CAMP

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Timber Bay is a very traditional place for the community of Lutselk'e Dene First Nation. They have been using this area since time immemorial for hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife; it's their way of life. And, you know, they've been doing it long before the Canadian Constitution ever existed. Same thing with treaties, the NWT Act 1967. And in September of this year, the camp was raided. If you could imagine the camp having elders, families, children, guests, up to about 80 people. And then all of a sudden the chopper comes into the community, wildlife officers come out with bullet proof vests, making demands on to the camp and everything else, is very concerning. So after that happened, I issued a press release asking for a public apology and also an investigation into the wildlife officers' conduct.

So, Mr. Speaker, yesterday the court made a decision to quash the permit -- search permit for going into the camp. So my question is to the Minister of Wildlife and Natural Resources, can the Minister apologize sincerely to the Lutselk'e Dene First Nation for the unlawful activities of his officers and the trauma it has

caused for the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank the Member. He's been very active on this file, and I appreciate his work for it.

Mr. Speaker, as I said in my Minister's statement, the officers landed, they waited for an hour and a half -- an hour and 20 minutes before they could actually get in to do the work. They offered the opportunity to go directly to the source where it was, and it was denied. So, Mr. Speaker, I've reached out to the chief and asked to arrange a face-to-face meeting to discuss how we can continue to work on our collaborative efforts to work together to support the caribou. As I said in my Minister's statement, the herd used to be 470,000 where now it's 6,200, and that is a huge issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So basically the Minister's refusing to apologize to the people in Lutselk'e and -- Lutselk'e Dene First Nation for their unlawful raid into the community, so. I'm shocked, I mean, I -- I don't know what to say. This is something that's -- I expect from the Minister to apologize, and I'm kind of want to hear it here today. And if not, then I have other questions. Thank you

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it hasn't been proven it was unlawful. We were given a tip. There was two illegal hunts in the mobile zone. There was caribou wastage. There was carcasses left behind. There was impact that was 6,200 caribou minus. To put it in perspective, last year on the winter road we had illegal harvests. That was just almost half in those two hunts. So I'm more than willing to work, reach out and have those conversations with the chief, and I offered to go right into the community to have these conversations. I'm willing to work together on this. But again, it's interesting that -- do you want to look after the caribou? Do you want to get rid of them? Do you want them to disappear? We have the opportunity to go into the Beverly herd, and so we're willing to do this. We're willing to have those conversations. And it's hard. And I understand the importance of caribou for Indigenous people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mean, the courts were very clear yesterday, that in Supreme Court of the Northwest

Territories, that this permit was quashed so therefore, I mean, there's no evidence, no proof, showing that there was any caribou wastage. So I'm still -- I'm going to ask for an apology here, and I'm not hearing it from the Minister so I'm going to ask again.

Is he sincerely going to apologize to the community of Lutselk'e for this raid? Thank you

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've already said it once, I'll say it again. I actually said it twice. I'm more than willing to meet with the chief and the First Nation in the community of Lutselk'e to have that conversation on how we can do the recovery on that. That's what I made my commitment to. There is an investigation still going on, and I don't know what's going on with that. So I'm more than willing to work on how we can support the recovery of the caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister work with Lutselk'e Dene First Nation to develop and implement a shared enforcement protocol to ensure this kind of thing will never happen again? At the same time, if he wants to work with the community in the spirit of reconciliation, then I'd like to have a commitment here today by the Minister to say that he is willing to go into Lutselk'e to work with chief and council and if need be, then that's where he should apologize because I'm not hearing it in the House here today, because the court -- Supreme Court decision is final; it's done. Thank you

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've made a commitment to the chief in a letter. The GNWT's committed to continue to work on commitments made in Thaidene Nene established agreement including the development of mutually agreed-upon procedures and practice for the enforcement response to be used within the Thaidene Nene. I'm more than willing to work with chief and council. I'm more than willing to have the Member be there and go into the community and work forward on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1225-19(2):
ADDRESSING RISING COSTS OF LIVING

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cost of living in the North has always been high. Mr. Speaker, it's becoming unbearable for many families in my riding and I'm sure everyone else's. My questions today will focus on what we as a government are doing to help our citizens cope with the rising costs that are occurring. And I'm going to direct my questions to the Premier because it seems like we tend to not have to direct our questions to her a lot. So Mr. Speaker, they end up always going over here and over there. Can this government look at freezing increases, as a government as a whole look at some of the things that are a rising cost for our everyday homeowners, like power, heat, and you know, because those are all getting passed on to the consumers, which went on our groceries and everything are expensive. So as a government and as the leader of our government, will she look into freezing some of these costs to make sure that our citizens, our residents of the Northwest Territories, can make it through the winter months? Thank you

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Honourable Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I don't answer every question is because otherwise I wouldn't need to have so many Ministers, Mr. Speaker. But in seriousness, Mr. Speaker, this is a huge issue for the residents of the NWT. It's always been really expensive to live here and with what's going on post-COVID, I mean it's even more so. I have given direction to all Ministers to look within their programs and see what they can do. I didn't give specific direction that said "freeze increases." What my direction was is to look and to see if there's anything that they can do within their departments to help people with inflation. And, Mr. Speaker, I do have to clarify one of my directions, because I do believe that low income people are suffering -- will be suffering from inflation the hardest, so I did say specifically around people that are lower income. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues alluded to this today, and I know if another Member was here he would have alluded to it today too, but, you know, we're coming up to the end of our term and in April, we're supposed to be, you know, possibly seeing an increase in carbon taxes to our residents. And so can this government commit that to the end of this government, at least, and go to Ottawa, making sure that

we're not increasing any more taxes to our residents? We are seeing people leave the territory because they cannot afford it. We are seeing people born and raised and lived their life here leaving the territory because they can't afford it, and we don't want people to leave. We don't want our own people to leave. We want to bring everybody back home. We want more people to live here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The conversations with the federal government, I mention their name as well because I think the Member's right, every time we mention their name somebody pays attention and I do think that those conversations need to be ongoing, not only in this government here but carrying on. We've experience some of the most highest cost of living in Canada, and I have constantly told the federal Ministers that we deserve to have the same standard of living as every other Canadian. I'll continue that message as far as we go on.

As for specific on the carbon tax that Minister Wawzonek will be attending; we're actually planning on going back to Ottawa again, talking about the next budget, hoping that we get increases to the Northwest Territories. I can't say what we will be doing in the future. I do know that we've done increases to help people such as the home heating. I know that we haven't raised taxes in this government yet. And it's tough, because I hear every day, and I want to help too, saying increase programs, increase money to programs. And I want the same thing. But, Mr. Speaker, if we don't get money from the federal government and we don't increase taxes and we don't have any income, then we also have to say do we stay with what we have? Because I'm not happy with that either. I don't have the answers, Mr. Speaker, but I do hope that everybody's part of the solution. And like I said, my direction to Cabinet is to look at those most vulnerable to start with, look at those who are going to suffer the most to start with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, I wrote these questions, and then as I'm writing them and then knowing what's going on and some of the conversations that are happening in this room, with carbon tax I think the one thing that boggles my brain as somebody who sits in this legislature as the Northwest Territories. As my colleague from Nunakput can clearly show you pictures in front of his home, you know, that it's deteriorating. And, yes, carbon is very important. But, we are not the big emitters and

we are having to pay our tax dollars to meet this federal government dream, you know. So maybe it's time when we go back, you know, that's the thing, is we are not the emitter. We should be compensated by them to be paying for all of these costs and not passing them on to our residents.

So will the Minister -- or will the Premier and the Minister, you know, commit to making sure that this message is passed on and don't leave the room until they commit to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say yes as much as I can, but I do have to say no on some things in here.

I agree. My understanding is that greenhouse gas emissions from the NWT are 0.02 percent, yet we're feeling the effects four times as the rest of the world. So that's not okay.

I do know that we brought up that discussion many times to the federal government. I will say that we will go again. We are going right after session, and we will bring it up again. Mr. Speaker, I don't like to say no, but I have to say no. I cannot promise to stay in the current prime, minister's office until I get a yes because I know he's got way more security than I do, and he will literally take me out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, this government, will they commit to some of these things that we're doing, like, you know, and I would have used the project like the wind project where we're supposed to save \$4 million to pass on to residents but from my understanding that it's going to be delayed, over budget and delayed. So where there is savings found, how is this government going to make sure that I can get food, you can get food, our residents can get food, you know, like, and that's -- I think that is the part where people are really afraid, is they can't afford the heat, the power, and the food. And it's getting really scary, and some people do not want to -- you know, there's -- even within the levels of income are struggling. So that will be my question, and maybe it's more of a comment, but how is this government going to ensure to our residents that they can make it through this winter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This isn't a joking matter; this is

pretty serious. It is a concern that we want all residents to make sure that they make it through the winter. We're doing our part. I know that Cabinet is working on the government renewal that makes sure that we're looking at all of our programs, department by department, to make sure the programs we're providing are still applicable. That work may result in some change of programs. We know we're trying to address the issues as much as possible, like I said, with the home heating fuel is one thing.

Mr. Speaker, any resident who cannot afford a standard of living, if they can't afford to heat their homes, if they can't afford to put food on their tables and they're trying, then please visit the programs we have in place. That is the reason we have the seniors home heating subsidy; that's the reason we have income support, Mr. Speaker, is to help residents when they can't get by.

Recognizing it's all based on an income base but that's what the programs are there for. So, please, if you're suffering, please reach out to the supports we have in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Colleagues, our time for oral questions has expired. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to the Commissioner's address. Petitions. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 739-19(2):
AURORA COLLEGE CORPORATE PLAN
2022-2023

TABLED DOCUMENT 740-19(2):
OPERATING PLANS FOR NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES EDUCATION BODIES FOR
THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 2023, VOLUMES 1 AND 2

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents: Aurora College Corporate Plan 2022-2023; and, Operating Plans for the Northwest Territories Education Bodies for the 2022-2023 School Year ending June 30th, 2023, Volumes 1 and 2. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. 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, 29, 48, 52, and

53, Committee Report 33-19(2), Committee Report 34-19(2), Tabled Document 523-19(2).

By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 1-19(2), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House, 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 Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, committee wishes to deal with Committee Report 33-19(2), Bill 52, Bill 48, and Tabled Document 723-19(2), Infrastructure, Housing NWT, Environment and Natural Resources, and Lands. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, committee. We will take a short recess and resume with the first item.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): I now call Committee of the Whole back to order.

Committee, we've agreed to resume consideration of Committee Report 33-19(2): Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment Report on Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act. Members, last week we concluded general comments, voted on the first motion and the second motion had been called. There was a motion to report progress before debate had begun as it was brought to the chair's attention that the wrong version of the committee motions were before committee. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Pursuant to Rule 6.2(13) that allows the motion to be withdrawn before debate with the consent of the seconder, the Rule 9.1(7) which allows the motion to be moved into Committee of the Whole without a seconder, I wish to withdraw the Committee Motion 303-19(2). Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Member for Nunakput.

COMMITTEE MOTION 304-19(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 33-19(2): STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 52,
ELEVATORS AND LIFTS ACT – RESCIND
MOTION 302-19(2),
CARRIED

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair, I move that the Committee Motion 302-19(2) be rescinded. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm rescinding the motion as the wording is not the same as the recommendation included in the committee report. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Member for Nunakput.

COMMITTEE MOTION 305-19(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 33-19(2): STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 52,
ELEVATORS AND LIFTS ACT – PUBLIC
AVAILABILITY OF REPORT DESCRIBED IN
SECTION 68 OF THE ACT,
CARRIED

MR. JACOBSON: I move that the Government of the Northwest Territories make the report as described in section 68 of the act publicly available, including details not limited to a number of permits issued and in good standing, a number of approvals, orders issued, prosecutions, fines, and inspections, etcetera. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Abstentions? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Member for Nunakput.

COMMITTEE MOTION 306-19(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 33-19(2): STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 52,
ELEVATORS AND LIFTS ACT – PROACTIVE
DISCLOSURE OF REGISTRY
INFORMATION,
CARRIED

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that the Government of the Northwest Territories proactively disclose the information contained in the registry described in the section 13 of the act by making it publicly available without fees for access. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Motion is carried. Thank you

---Carried

Member for Nunakput.

COMMITTEE MOTION 307-19(2):
COMMITTEE REPORT 33-19(2): STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 52,
ELEVATORS AND LIFTS ACT –
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO
RECOMMENDATIONS,
CARRIED

MR. JACOBSON: Madam Chair, I move that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide the response to the recommendations contained in the report within 120 days. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Do you agree that you have concluded consideration of Committee Report 33-19(2), Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment Report on Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, committee. We have concluded consideration of Committee Report 33-19(2), Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environmental Report on Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act.

All right, we will move on to Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act. Committee, we've agreed to consider Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act. I will ask the Minister of Infrastructure to introduce the bill.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm here to present Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act.

Bill 52 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly during the May/June 2022 sitting. The Elevators and Lifts Act creates a statutory framework for the regulation of elevating devices that addresses all components of these complex systems here in the Northwest Territories. This includes several key elements of public safety.

Every other Canadian province and territory regulates elevators and lifts through either a dedicated Act or a regulation. The Government of the Northwest Territories currently regulates "elevating device" under the electrical protection regulation of the Electrical Protections Act. Under this existing legislation, the GNWT has limited authority to regulate the non-electrical components of elevators, lifts, and amusement rides. The proposed Act fixes that gap, and it addresses how these devices will be installed, maintained, and inspected, creates simplified appeal process. Key to these features are effective registry, inspection, and enforcement systems. Public safety is the cornerstone of this proposed act which will provide important legislative clarity for industry and government and transparency to the public on the safe operation and maintenance of elevating devices they use. Most NWT residents will not notice any changes in how the act impacts them and the regulation of elevators and lifts.

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment has reviewed the act. Committee made recommendations to the annual report public and to ensure public access to the registry information. I have committed to address these recommendations

as well as to provide committee with the opportunity to review the bill. I thank SCEDE for their work in the review of the bill. I look forward to Members' comments on the bill and answering any questions Members may have.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Minister, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to introduce my witness. To my left is Delia Chesworth. She is the ADM for programs and services. And to my right I have Alison Scott, who is director of policy, planning, and communication.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you I will now turn to the chair of Standing Committee on Economic Development committee, the committee that reviewed the bill for any opening comments on Bill 52.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act, received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on 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 and completed its clause-by-clause review with the Minister of Infrastructure. The committee received no submissions on this bill.

I thank the committee for reviewing this legislation and the individual Members that may have additional comments. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you I will now open the floor to general comments on Bill 52. Does the committee agree that there are no comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Can we proceed to a clause-by-clause review of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, we will defer the bill number and title until after consideration of the clauses. I will call the

clauses in groups. Please return to page 1 of the bill.

Clause 1 to 5, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 6 through 10, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 11 through 15, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 16 through 20, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 21 to 25, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 26 to 30, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 31 to 35, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 36 to 40, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 41 to 45, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 46 to 50, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 51 to 55, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 56 to 60, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 61 to 61, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 66 to 70, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 71 to 73, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, to the bill as a whole, does committee agree that Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, committee. Does the committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister, and thank you to your witnesses. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we've agreed to consider Bill 48, Arbitration Act. I will ask the Minister of Justice to introduce the bill.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am here today to present Bill 48, Arbitration Act. The current Arbitration Act was enacted decades ago and has had few amendments since that time. The Arbitration Act establishes the default terms of an arbitration agreement made between two parties. Many powers that an arbitrator possesses in other jurisdictions are not currently available in the Northwest Territories meaning arbitration is currently a less attractive dispute resolution mechanism in this jurisdiction.

This bill is based substantially on the Uniform Arbitration Act, which was adopted in 2016 by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. The Uniform Law Conference of Canada provides independent analysis and recommendations for the harmonization and reform of laws in Canada. The proposed new act would also bring the NWT's legislation in line with recent legislation elsewhere in Canada and ensure consistency with prevailing arbitral practices.

The bill provides extensive and necessary updates to the law governing arbitration, including provisions that will address such things as the commencement and consolidation of arbitral proceedings, jurisdiction of arbitral tribunals, the making of arbitral awards and awarding of costs, and the termination of arbitral proceedings.

The department engaged with other GNWT departments, the NWT Branch of the Canadian Bar Association, the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, the Union of Northern Workers, and the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories on the proposed legislation.

Based on discussions with the Union of Northern Workers, the department has determined it is most appropriate to exclude arbitrations conducted under the Public Service Act and Education Act from being brought under the new legislation. The new Arbitration Act is more designed to meet the needs of commercial arbitrations rather than labour arbitrations. To this effect, I will be bringing forward a number of motions today to amend the bill and make this exclusion.

Replacing the outdated legislation with a more modern and up-to-date Arbitration Act will give NWT residents more options for resolving disputes without having to go to court. Arbitration is a voluntary process that is more flexible and informal than going to court and is a good alternative for people to resolve disputes fairly, quickly, and efficiently.

This concludes my opening remarks, and I would be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have regarding Bill 48. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Minister, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, will you please introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. with us today, we have Brad Patzer, assistant deputy minister Attorney General with the Department of Justice, and to his right Ian Rennie, acting director of legislation division with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, welcome. I will now turn to the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Development, the committee that reviewed the bill, for any opening comments or Bill 48. Ms. Cleveland.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, Bill 48, Arbitration Act, received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on March 30th, 2022, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for review.

Bill 48 replaces the existing Arbitration Act with a more modern law modelled after the Uniform Arbitration Act of 2016. This update is to modernize old arbitration legislation and bring it in line with international best practices. Committee received no submissions from the public on Bill 48.

On October 5th, 2022, the standing committee held a public hearing with the Minister of Justice and completed its clause-by-clause review on the bill on October 11th, 2022.

On October 13th, 2022, Bill 48 was reported to the Assembly as ready for further consideration in Committee of the Whole. The committee's report on Bill 48 was read earlier today and was received and adopted by the Assembly. Individual Members may have additional comments or questions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you I will now open the floor to general comments on Bill 48. Does committee agree that there are no comments for Bill 48?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Can we proceed to a clause-by-clause review of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, we will defer the bill number and title until after consideration of the clauses. I will call the clauses in groups. Please turn to page 1 of the bill.

Clause 1 and 2, does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clause 3, does committee agree? Minister of Justice.

COMMITTEE MOTION 308-19(2):
BILL 48: ARBITRATION ACT – AMEND
SUBCLAUSE 3(5),
CARRIED

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that subclause 3(5) of Bill 48 be amended:

- A. By deleting the "or" at the end of the English version of paragraph A;
- B. By deleting the period at the end of paragraph B and substituting "or"; and,
- C. By adding the following after paragraph B, "C. An arbitration under the Public Service Act or the Education Act."

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is on the floor and being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Minister of Justice.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. This motion is part of a package of motions that will deal with the application of arbitration legislation to the Public Service Act and Education Act.

Upon review of the bill, the Union of Northern Workers advised the department that they were concerned with the application of the proposed new Act, notably, that Bill 48 is primarily geared towards commercial and other arbitrations, not labour arbitrations. The Department of Justice has developed these motions to address these concerns. The department is proposing to exclude the application of the new Arbitration Act to labour arbitrations that are conducted under the collective agreements contemplated in the Public Service Act. This includes arbitrations conducted by the Union of Northern Workers and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association.

If passed, Bill 48 would come into force but the current Act would also remain in force for the limited purpose of dealing with arbitrations conducted under collective agreements under the Public Service Act.

The Department of Finance intends to pursue updates to the Public Service Act which will, among other things, speak to labour arbitrations. The current Arbitration Act will be completely repealed once a new Public Service Act is advanced with its arbitration provisions therein. To avoid any confusion in the interim, the current Act will also be renamed to Arbitration Act 1988.

The department has reached out to the UNW and the Northwest Territories Teachers Association on this approach, neither of which have any objections. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clause 3 as amended, does committee agree?

---Clauses 3 through 73 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Minister of Justice.

COMMITTEE MOTION 309-19(2):
BILL 48: ARBITRATION ACT – ADDITION OF
CLAUSE 73.1,
CARRIED

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill 48 be amended by adding the following immediately before the heading "Community Planning and Development Act, Arbitration Act, RSNWT 1988, c A-5"

73.1:

1. The Arbitration Act RSNWT 1988, c A-5 is amended by this section;
2. The title is repealed and the following is substituted: Arbitration Act 1988;
3. Sections 2 and 3 are repealed and the following is substituted:
 2. This Act applies to an arbitration under the Public Service Act or the Education Act;
 3. For the purposes of arbitral proceedings to which this Act applies, a reference in an arbitration agreement to the Arbitration Act or Arbitration Act RSNWT 1988 c A-5 is deemed to be a reference to this Act.

Thank you

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is in order -- or sorry, the motion is on the floor being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): New clause 73.1, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 74, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Minister of Justice.

COMMITTEE MOTION 310-19(2):
BILL 48: ARBITRATION ACT – ADDITION OF
CLAUSE 74.1,
CARRIED

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill 48 be amended by adding the following after Clause 74: "Education Act, 74.1: Section 57 of the Education Act is amended by striking out "Arbitration Act" and substituting "Arbitration Act 1988 RSNWT 1988, c A-5." Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is on the floor and being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): New clause 74.1, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clause 75, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clause 76. Minister of Justice.

COMMITTEE MOTION 311-19(2):
BILL 48: ARBITRATION ACT – AMEND
CLAUSE 76,
CARRIED

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill 48 be amended by deleting clause 76 and substituting the following:

76:

1. The Public Service Act is amended by this section;
2. The following provisions are amended by striking out Arbitration Act and substituting Arbitration Act RSNWT 1988, c A-5

A. Subsection 40.5(2)

B. Subsection 41.02(9);

3. The following provisions are amended by striking out "Arbitration Act" and substituting "Arbitration Act RSNWT 1988, c A-5

A. Subsection 41.02(8)

B. Section 43.

Thank you

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is on the floor and being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clause 76 as amended, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clause 77. Minister of Justice.

COMMITTEE MOTION 312-19(2):
BILL 48: ARBITRATION ACT – DELETION
OF CLAUSE 77,
CARRIED

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill 48 be amended by deleting clause 77 and the heading immediately preceding clause 77. Thank you

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): The motion is on the floor and being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clause 77 has been deleted. Clause 78, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, to the bill as a whole, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Does the committee agree that Bill 48, Arbitration Act, is now ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, committee. Does the committee agree that this conclude our consideration of Bill 48, Arbitration Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister, and thank you to your witnesses. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we've agreed to consider Tabled Document 723-19(2), Capital Estimates 2023-2024. Committee, we will now consider the Department of Infrastructure.

Does the Minister of Infrastructure wish to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I have with me my deputy minister, Steve Loutitt. And I also have my ADM for asset management, David Moore.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, welcome. The committee has agreed to forego general comments. Does the committee agree to proceed to the detail contained in the tabled document?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, the Department of Infrastructure begins on page 52. We will defer the departmental totals and review the estimates by activity summary beginning at page 53 with asset management, and there is information items on page 54 and 55.

Infrastructure, asset management with infrastructure investment, \$82,792,000. MLA Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm just curious to know for the Frank Channel Bridge if we can get an update on where we're at for that -- oh, sorry, just curious to know

given that the life expectancy of the bridge is up in 2024, we don't have the luxury of waiting if this project gets delayed any further, so if I could get an update that would be great. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the GNWT continued to collaborate with Tlicho government to ensure that we have local employment. We also are looking at working with the federal government to continue the bridge. It's a project that is funded under the National Trades Corridors Fund.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you for that. Sorry, I just -- okay, maybe I can rephrase. When do we expect to hear a decision on whether or not the additional funding has been awarded for that project? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to ask Mr. Moore to give an update on where we're at. He's the guy in charge with all of our federal engagements. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. We continue to work with the federal government Department of Transportation, working with them on their National Trade Corridor Fund. We're awaiting a decision from Transport Canada on recent increases, inflationary increases to materials. We're also working with the Tlicho government on next step with respect to a progressive design build process. We're anticipating a decision from the federal government very shortly, within the next month, and at that time we'll be continuing the next steps with the Tlicho on the progressive design build. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Great, that's amazing, and I will hope to hear that news when it gets received by the department and shared with the rest of us. I think that's great.

I guess I have a question on around escalating costs around our road contracts. Considering that the supply chain is within Northwest

Territories itself, can the Minister of the department speak about how why we're seeing such huge increases in our budgeting for these projects given that, really, it's gravel and dirt that's already here in the territory. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, inflation is a growing national and international concern. So Infrastructure continues to monitor the impacts of inflation by commodity prices as well as construction materials as we find realistic ways to be able to adjust these rising costs of capital projects that are critical for the Northwest Territories' economic development as well as our residents. Madam Chair, I'm going to see if Mr. Moore wants to add anything further. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. As the Minister mentioned, inflationary impacts are impacting ourselves and actually all jurisdictions in North America, not only due to material increases but affects to the supply chain that we're seeing as supply chain issues on materials as well as talent. And the talent shortages and materials are affecting all projects across the spectrum, including in the territory here, which we're responding to accordingly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess I'd like to keep on the conversation about roads and can the Minister or the department speak to what is the reconstruction work on the Inuvik to Tuk Highway, and how much is that going to cost this year? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we have engaged with the federal government on the Inuvik-Tuk Highway. It's the Kilometre Zero to Tuk 139. There's, you know, a number of potholes. There's loose gravel, soft shoulders. So I mean, these require additional annual program to be able to protect this investment. You know, everyone's aware how much money we spent to build the Inuvik-Tuk Highway. So we have an application for the ongoing rehabilitation of the Tuk that is consistent with

some of the other highways. These sections include some of the rising of the low profile sections, the culvert rehabilitations, ponding, erosions. So these are a number of things that we are working with the feds to be able to look at the application and perhaps hopefully get some funding announced soon. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you. So from listening to that I hear that we don't have -- like, or I didn't hear an amount; how much money was that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. David wants to speak further to that, thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. ADM Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. We continue to work with the federal government on ongoing challenges with ITH, as the Minister mentioned. We're anticipating having tenders for rehabilitation work in the spring of 2023. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you. I will follow up to get the amount of that work, I guess, since nobody seems to have that number right now.

My next question then is around -- oh jeez, where did it go -- I'm losing my mind here. The community access road improvements. Thank you.

So under the community access plan, that is my understanding that money is directly into the communities themselves to work on their own projects, which is always a great thing in my opinion. Can the Minister or the department speak more to what projects this entails and whether or not they're going to put more money into that program? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the community access program is a really successful program because it starts to, you know, work with communities in some of the work around some of the planning and design for access roads. So right now in plan for 2023-2024, where this budget is concerned, we have some

embankment work, surface improvements, drainage improvements, the -- that's more leaning to some of the specific projects. So that's just one example of some of the projects that we have going on. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't think that my question was answered there about what projects those are. Like, maybe I guess the better way to ask is which communities are those projects in and how much is that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I can get back to the Member. That's not really specific to some of the capital stuff that we have so I can respond back to the Member with some specific projects that are more operational. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Yes, thank you. Any information that can be provided I would appreciate it. I want to just talk about the Great Bear River Bridge planning. I remember bidding on this project in 2018, and I'm sitting here now, four years later, and it's not progressing very much. I know that there has been work done but I'm hearing from the communities that the engagement has not been very great and that they're concerned that there's going to be a loss of this money and work outside of the territory. Can the Minister or the department speak a little bit more about what this entails under the planning. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, some of the planned work for the Great Bear River Bridge includes obtaining regulatory permits. We have a tender award construction contract. Camp, site access construction, granular material, bridge foundation, fabrication of geo and engineering services. So we are looking at some of the scoping for this work and also working with the communities as well to ensure that we get community engagement because this is a really important project. It'll be the second biggest bridge here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I'm hoping that one day I get to walk across that bridge while I can still walk.

My next question is around deferred maintenance. So when we look at these amounts here, is this to actually bring down our costs of deferred maintenance as in to start tackling the overall amounts, or is this just sort of a keeping up with the Band-Aid solutions? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, MLA. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, deferred maintenance is the practice of postponing prudent but nonessential maintenance activities and our repairs to some of our capital infrastructure in order to save some of the costs. So some of the projects in the work plan, we look at things like some of the funding is based on maintenance priorities with 20 percent of major asset inventory. We also, at a minimum, assets to be inspected once every five years. So we do have a plan. I'm going to see if David wanted to speak a little bit more about some of the program. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. ADM Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Most definitely we continue to work away at the critical aspects of our deferred maintenance backlog. It's not a dollar for dollar allocation. It's important to recognize that. An example would be the demolition of HH Williams. You know, we would have put a few million towards demolition of that facility but it would bring down the deficit of deferred maintenance by significantly more than that. So it's very much leveraging work like that and also building new assets. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Any other questions, comments from Members under asset management? Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess I heard the Minister once mention -- we were talking about highways, and she had mentioned that it's kind of -- our highways are kind of graded on a comfort level, I think, and she said something like four out of ten is what we look at which, I guess, isn't all that great. And when I look at the highway system here in the territories, you know, anything that had pavement on it, we're chip sealing. So I guess I'd like to know from the department is at any point do we look at the -- or do we compare the chip seal to

actually paving and what would be the cost benefit, I guess, of one or the other and -- because I guess what I -- when I'm in Alberta, you can see the highways. When the drive through the highway systems, it's paved, and they're a lot nicer and they seem to stand up. So I'm just wondering why we spend so much on -- or we spend our time on chip sealing and not paving. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, every year we invest a lot of money into some of our road infrastructure, things like chip seal for an example. And I think you're well aware of that very well. I'm going to see if David can speak. We've got a table here of all the work that we have planned for the 2023 and a list of all the different work by region. So I'll get David to perhaps summarize that because we're not going to be reading three pages of a big list of things we're doing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Just to go back, I think the question was are chip sealing versus pavement, why are we going from replacing pavement to chip seal; is there a cost?

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: If I can just get David to speak about it. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): ADM Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, very much we work with other jurisdictions and the Transportation Association of Canada looking at road standards, and utilizing that with respect to our traffic counts here in the territory, optimizing the work we need per highway based on the usage and the life cycle of our roads.

As the Minister alluded to, there's significant work planned for 2023-2024 on a number of our highways. I won't read the three pages but there is significant chip sealing we're looking at next year to maintain the quality and integrity and safety of our roads and highways. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. MLA for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess the other is drainage and culverts. We've had a number of washouts because of high water, and I'm just wondering, I guess, have we, I guess, assessed all the culverts along the highway to see if they meet standards, because it seems like, you know, this last couple years we've been having a

frequent number of washouts and the amount of water coming down, the culverts just can't handle them. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, you know, we've had a number of concerns along a lot of our highways in terms of flooding, the impacts, and the costs associated with getting these fixed. I'm going to see if David can speak a little more further on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. ADM Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. As the Minister mentioned, the impacts of climate change are certainly a reality with respect to the resilience of our infrastructure, and culverts and bridges are very much in that category. Our team inspect all culverts and bridges regularly, every three years, to maintain -- ensure that they're functioning and operating within proper norms. That being said, there is quite a bit of work that needs to be done and is being done to maintain those culverts. In the case of the ones that have been impacted very much, we're looking at those to ensure that they align with the national standards. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. MLA for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. And aligning I guess with the Canadian standards, do we have anything in-house with respect to standards and design criteria for culverts and drainage in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, yes, we do. We have staff that does all that work. But I'm going to get David to just speak a little more in detail on some of the great work that we're able to do internally. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. ADM Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Definitely we do, an amazing team looking at all our assets. We actually align to some of the best standards in Canada through the Ontario bridge standards, for example. We're also doing a climate change vulnerability assessment review of all our assets working

with our sister departments, including culverts. So thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just looking at the work that's going to be done on the highway, I notice that, I guess -- and it might be there somewhere but I don't see, I guess Highways 2, 4, 5, and 6 on there. And I guess my concern is probably more so Hay River, which is Highway 2, about Kilometre 42 to 48, which is in dire need of work. Can the Minister tell me if that's included in work for this coming summer? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't believe the work is planned for that. I'm looking at my deputy minister here for that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Deputy minister Loutitt.

MR. LOUITT: Thank you, Madam Chair. That is correct, at this point there's no plans for that area. We are doing maintenance on several different sections of roads on all of our highways. But we have prioritized the major projects and the areas most in need of repairs at this point. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, I guess, you know, when we look at the traffic corridor, you know, traffic coming in from the south, heavy trucks, we're looking at Highway No. 1, and then if it's barge traffic, it's coming in to Hay River and, you know, we have quite a few corners there, we have no shoulders. So is there anything, I guess, in the works to look at maybe road straightening as well as road widening on either -- well, I guess from the border all the way into Hay River? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I'm going to ask Mr. Moore if he can speak a little --

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. ADM Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Most definitely, Highway No. 1, we are looking at from near the border up to Hay River. We've

examined that highway very closely. As the deputy mentioned, we are prioritizing our dollars to the areas of greatest need, which in the case of Highway No. 2, for example, would be from Kilometre Zero to 42, with the work being planned for the summer of 2023. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: No further questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Are there any further questions? Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess I'll start with some comments that I find the capital plan estimates to be one of the unworkable documents ever, and I get that first and foremost it is a Finance document, not an Infrastructure document. But as an example, we require every municipality to have asset management plans -- we are trying to get them all to have asset management plans. And they're great documents. They tell you the total replacement cost of every single asset they own. They kind of give you a timeline for construction. And I know the department has a lot of stuff in-house. You know, obviously we know some information about deferred maintenance and we have some long-term capital planning, but none of that is public. The only public thing we have is this document that doesn't tell you the price of any project, doesn't tell you the timeline for construction, doesn't tell you whether it's on budget, doesn't tell you what we're planning to do beyond a specific fiscal. So I'm just wondering if the department has any plans to create some sort of asset management plan for the GNWT? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I think the Member will be happy to know that, yes, we are looking at something a little more transparent, and it's going to be called the dashboard. We are working on it now. Hopefully get it online by the fall. So I think that's great news. It'll be out in the public like the Member's asked. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Well, I feel like I don't have any more questions other than waiting to see this dashboard. I'm very, very excited about

that. I guess -- well, I'm going to ask some questions about this potential dashboard.

I know that a lot of jurisdictions publish a five-year capital plan where it kind of breaks down what's being spent over five years and the year to year amount and kind of what's in the future. We don't presently do that. We don't presently even say how much we're spending in an individual year. Is that the kind of information I could expect in this dashboard? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, you know, there's a lot of work that's being put into this to get it off the ground in the fall. But further to that, I'm just going to have Mr. Moore speak a little more detail as he's looking after the project. So I will give him the opportunity to be able to share with the committee on some of the great work that's happening. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. ADM Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Madam Chair. As the Minister mentioned, there's a lot of moving parts to this. We have a lot of great systems that track the asset conditions of different assets. For example, we track bridges and bridge conditions. We also track vertical infrastructure. And you're they're using different systems in different ways and different metrics. And so putting that all together into one dashboard is a complex process. Our plan is, by the fall of 2023, to have a public dashboard which demonstrates the status of our assets that folks can see over time. But we're still working through the details on that, Madam Chair. So more to come. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. I'm happy to hear that. I guess I believe that dashboard will address a lot of the concerns I have about, you know, trying to find some public information on asset management planning, deferred maintenance, kind of where we're at with that money. But I'm not sure it'll necessarily address the other concern I have which is that there's a fear that if we publicly state the cost of any project before tender in this House it's going to obstruct the tendering process. So the document I'm looking at right now doesn't tell us the cost of anything we are voting on. And I'm just wondering if the

department has any intention to make some of that more public. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the Member's correct; I mean, we don't share detail about some of our tendering process in any of our projects. But, I mean, we would be able to share what we can publicly so it just doesn't skew the whole mess -- the information that we provide publicly. So I want to make sure that we share what we can so that people can just have a look at that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. And I think where I find this especially frustrating is sometimes it's public. The Minister released a news release saying the Frank Channel Bridge cost \$50 million, and we got 75 dollars from ICIP, and then, you know, that happens, and now I look at that -- you know, I heard the Minister say that, you know, we're going through this process and we're going to work with Tlicho, but it's not now clear to me whether that \$50 million is a true number and whether we're actually going to be higher. So, you know, I think once it's definitely some sort of public announcement is made, making sure that we keep track of that, would be very helpful. So I guess another way, do we have an updated cost of the Frank Channel Bridge beyond -- is it more than \$50 million which was already announced? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to get the deputy minister to speak about, you know, some of the information we can and can't share because we -- it's federal funding as well so we need that engagement. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Deputy minister Loutitt.

MR. LOUITT: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister is correct. There's certain figures that we can share, and there are oftentimes more of a global figure and in line with what we're getting from a federal contribution. Bear in mind that those costs are not specific for the entire project. They're broken down into department and to engineering and to getting water licenses and the planning and engagement with our Indigenous partners and such so it's more of a global number. But we

do share the numbers in confidence with committee, and we continue to do that. But for -- to keep in line with the procurement process, we keep those numbers confidential. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you. I guess I'll try and get some numbers out of the department. I'm going to ask about the Slave Geological All-Weather environmental assessment and planning, which I -- we're going to do -- I see that it's been changed to finish planning for 2027-2028 for the first phase to Lockhart Lake. I also see that there's some federal money there. I'm not sure that the procurement concern applies so much to planning. I can kind of not really understand it for, you know, the actual building, but is someone willing to tell me how much we are going to spend on planning and how much money we got from the federal government for a section of the Slave Geological Province Corridor? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the deputy minister responsible for that project is coming up next but I'm going to give it a shot to ensure that we have some information out there perhaps.

So planning and engagement is underway to be able to advance this project. You know, we are looking at a target of late 2024. You know, the IGOs have been engaged through the summer and discussions about collaboration work continue. What are some -- some of the planned work that are -- that is happening is the environmental and geotechnical fieldwork as well as some Indigenous knowledge studies. We continue to engage with Indigenous governments, participation. This is a \$40 million project that was announced, and it is 75/25. And as my deputy minister pointed out, that, you know, we probably won't go into detail. There are a number of factors that take up this amount of money so the -- thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you. Okay, I'm glad to hear -- well, I don't know if I'm glad to hear but I heard a number. We're spending \$40 million on the planning. Sorry, but I heard the Minister say estimated completion 2024, and then I'm looking at the page 55, and it says 2027-2028 so can I just -- for

environmental assessment and planning, when can we expect completion for the first phase to Lockhart Lake? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, yes, that is correct. That's the estimate time to be completed, 2027. But, however, the planning work for the environmental and geotech fieldwork is continuing so some of that work will continue up to 2023-2024.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. I'll just ask one more question that illustrates my frustration with the lack of transparency. I hear we're spending \$40 million. Well, maybe it won't be frustrate me, but can someone tell me how much you're presently asking for or how much we plan to spend in this next fiscal? I can't see how that has any affect on procurement for me to know how much money you're presently asking the Assembly for. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the project is in a five-development phase. So phase 1 are some of the environmental planning that's funded under NTCF. So some of the federal funding is allocated to that. So I mean, some of the other stuff is very confidential because we still need to go out and do that work. But I want the Member to know that, you know, each different phases are funded. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. I'm just looking -- just going through this budget here and understanding it.

This budget you're proposing, you're putting forward, you talking -- you look at your energy -- our project listing and that kind of thing. Does this cover winter roads as well, Madam Chair? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. No, this process does not cover that. That comes through some our operational maintenance. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess what I'm just thinking is that, you know, we had a -- we got a budget of almost \$2.2 billion, and in my riding we have 1.7 percent of the overall budget but yet in the South Slave Region, on the map here that I'm looking at, it says it's -- you know, we got 15 percent of overall costing but yet when I look at this, it doesn't cover off Fort Resolution, Dettah, N'dilo, or Lutselk'e. So I guess I'm wondering, like how do I, like, in Fort Resolution, we need chip seal in the community. They've been asking for that. And the question is when can we have that discussion, and maybe with the municipality is there something we could do there? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I can work with the Minister of MACA to be able to discuss some of the municipal roads and stuff. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you for that. Now that -- what I was thinking is that when I take a look at all the winter roads right now here in the Northwest Territories, we got Colville Lake, we got Deline, we got Gameti, Nahanni Butte, Norman Wells, Sombaa K'e, Tulita, Wekweeti, Whati, Wrigley to -- Wrigley to Tulita, then we got Aklavik, and we got Dettah ice road. But yet, you know, we have the -- in Lutselk'e, we have an isolated community. You know, we have no means of transportation other than air and boat during the summer. There's no winter roads. And the community's been asking for a way to look at the high cost of living. And I just want to know if there's a way we could start really engaging with the chief and council, now that they have one in place now where the chief is James Marlowe, because they want to see a winter road as early as even this winter. But I know there's probably a process in place, or I just want to know if there's a way we could talk about that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, within -- you know, within our Cabinet and with our department, we engage with the Indigenous groups to have a look at some of the things that we can do;

however, I do want to assure the Member that we can talk off line to be able to have further discussions with the Indigenous group and how we can all work together. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. And if I could -- so that sounds like a commitment. And if we could, I wouldn't mind asking the Minister if she's willing to come to Lutselk'e maybe sometime in November to have that discussion with the community and council. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, between my office and department, we can work with the Member and the community to see what our schedules for the next month or so or perhaps, you know, seeing -- it's kind of difficult to be able to commit to a time when we need to engage with schedules as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Yeah, thank you very much, Madam Chair, and I appreciate that. I am looking forward to work with the Minister in trying to figure out some dates and do what we can just to accommodate the community of Lutselk'e to see what we can do to bring in the new winter road probably on an ongoing basis, anything to help out the high cost of living in that community. Having said that, though, and I guess that -- I'm assuming that the discussion will also happen with the community of Fort Resolution and MACA and together I'm assuming. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, absolutely. Again, I mentioned we'll look at our schedule, be able to see what time everybody has and start to have those discussions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Madam Chair. While we're having that same discussion, I guess I'm just wondering maybe we could also maybe plan to meet with the chief and council for YKDFN as well to take a look at maybe

some of their needs and requirements as well maybe. If the Minister, if her and I could probably meet with chief and council just to -- in sometime, depending on her schedule, just to talk about some of these other capital projects. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, absolutely. I mean, we have these discussions. It could be, you know, a phone call. It could be something -- you know, we can schedule a sit down, and again, we'll look at our schedule. But I'm happy to work with the Member. I think, you know, that's important to get the MLAs, the Indigenous groups, all sit down at a table and to be able to have meaningful discussions. I mean, you look at some of the work the Indigenous groups and the work with the government, perhaps we can go to the feds with one planned approach to be able to look at funding options for some work that's happening in the communities. And it's always good to see the Indigenous groups engage in that process. So I'd be happy to work with the Member. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Madam Chair. And as well, the Minister, if she could probably work with our -- the, some of the other -- I guess in this case the Minister of Finance to see if we get her on side as well because we did have a meeting with her a few weeks ago in trying to talk about this winter road. So I'm looking forward to work with all of you. I'm trying to make something happen. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure, do you have --

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I think that's -- you know, Minister of Finance and I work together on many different projects. I mean, this is a whole-of-government approach. It's not individual departments working in silos to be able to get some of these projects going. So Minister Wawzonek and I have several different major projects that we work together on. So thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: I just want -- one more question, I guess, and I'm done. I just want to see a smile on her face so that I could get my

winter road this year. Thank you, Madam. Just a statement. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): I'll take it as a statement. And she's smiling. All right. Any further questions, comments under Infrastructure, asset management? Member for Monfwi.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. With reference to Whati transmission line, the completion date is 2026-2027. Can we get an update and the estimate cost of the project? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): That's under the next section. On asset management we're on. You'll be first for the next section, okay.

Are there any further questions under asset management from Members? All right, seeing none, Infrastructure, asset management, infrastructure investment, \$82,792,000; does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee please turn to page 56, energy and strategic initiatives with information items on page 57. Member for Monfwi.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Yeah, if she can answer my question. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Madam Chair, can I switch my witnesses?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Yes. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witness out and bring the new witness in.

Please introduce your witness for the record.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, still with me is my deputy minister Steve Loutitt, but added to my table here is my assistant deputy minister for energy and strategic initiatives Robert Jenkins.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): So Member for Monfwi, did you want to repeat your question.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: We know that when this access -- Whati transmission line goes through, we know that it's going to lower the cost of electricity in the community. So I know Gameti were expressing interest as well. They wanted to see if it is possible to extend the Whati transmission line on to Gameti and from there to the Snare Hydro. I did ask that question before. Is there any way

that we can, you know, include Gameti, you know, to extend the Whati transmission line to Gameti and then, you know -- because they want to have -- they want to have the same benefit as Whati. So that was their interest. That's what they expressed. So I just wanted to ask about that if it is possible. But I know Tlicho government probably already talked to you guys about it so I'm just asking.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, so one of the projects that we are looking at in Gameti -- well, first of all, I think I heard a couple questions in there, but one of them was the Whati transmission line and some of the work going forward. You know, we are looking at estimation completion date, if everything goes well, in 2026-2027. So we are still in the early planning stages of the Whati transmission line, including consultation, engineering, environmental scoping. So that work is still underway. We have an agreement signed with the Tlicho government to be able to undertake most of this work. So that's the Member's first question. And I do want to just mention for the Gameti, we are looking at mini hydro. And if I can just have Mr. Jenkins speak a little bit more about the project there. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So as the Minister mentioned, for the Whati T-line next year, we're doing some work with the Tlicho government right now on the routing for that project and hope to be available to advance that to a decision point of whether we pursue federal funding for that project.

In Gameti, we've been looking at a mini hydro study there. We did update some pre-feasibility work in June of this year. And it does look like there is sufficient water available to meet the community power needs.

So in terms of our planned work for next fiscal year, we're going to continue with some of the technical studies in the planning and move that forward -- that project forward in conjunction with the Tlicho government. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Monfwi.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Yeah, thank you. I did say it before, we all know the mine will be closing soon and there's going to be an influx of mine workers without jobs. So we did

say that -- and I note Tlicho government or Gameti were expressing interest in that as well to have all-season road. And so -- because there's going to be a lot of workers with class 4, class 3, or heavy equipment operator. So they did ask about that. So I just want to ask the Minister if that plan is in place as well, you know, for future discussions and if there's any studies done on it and how much would it cost.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, that's not in the plan right now to proceed with that work. Yes, you know, that's -- do you want to add something further? If I can, deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Deputy minister, Loutitt.

MR. LOUITT: Thank you, Madam Chair. The MLA is correct that, you know, with the diamond mines closing, there does need to be plans for additional work to sustain and help the economy along. We have some large projects that are, you know, in different areas in the North Slave and up through the Slave Geological Province is one of them and the Mackenzie Valley. These projects create opportunities for employment for the communities. And until such time said mines is -- as we know the Slave Geological Province Road goes into one of the most mineral rich areas of the world and will create mining opportunities. And in the interim, that would be the construction phase would create those jobs at that point. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Monfwi.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Thank you for the information. Yes, I know -- well, the all-season road and the elders were saying that there is a route, an existing route, an old road from 20, 30 years ago. So they were saying that it's going to be a lot -- the planning, and it should be a lot easier. This is what they were saying. So it is possible. So I just wanted to ask if it's not part of the plan, can we put it -- make it part of the plan because with the high cost of living and the people are expressing frustration because with the fuel price going up and everything is flying in and diesel are being used for energy source. So I think they are -- it's hard -- everybody is experiencing financial hardship. It's not just in Tlicho communities but in all the small communities, especially within the fly-in communities so that is why I was expressing that if we can make it part of the

plan, you know, because once the diamond mines close, not everybody's going to be working on the proposed project as you just mentioned. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, before I turn it over to my deputy minister to speak a little bit more about some of the alignment that's happened in the past, but I mean, you know, we are happy to have that discussion to be able to talk about it. Doesn't necessarily mean it's going to get done and put on our capital list but, I mean, we'd be happy to be able -- to again work with the Indigenous group, have that discussion, work with the MLA, and, you know, find a place to be able to at some point perhaps get it on the books. If I can, Madam Chair, get deputy minister Loutitt to speak a little bit more about some of the past on the project. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Deputy minister Loutitt.

MR. LOUTITT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, I agree with the MLA. I think that, you know, should we have a project come forward of this magnitude, I think that's something that we would definitely have to be working with our Indigenous partners and looking at gaining that traditional knowledge and the local knowledge of the landscape. We shouldn't be making those decisions without working with the communities. So if there is an alignment when it comes down to that phase, we would certainly be working with the community members and with the elders to determine the best course. But, and as the Minister noted, we -- it isn't on the books at this point but it certainly, you know, could become a mandate item in the future. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Monfwi.

MS. WEYALLON-ARMSTRONG: Yes, thank you. Yes, I know that nothing can be done without consulting, you know, with any -- so you have to do a lot of -- there's lots involved, I am aware of that with planning to have this project, if it ever gets approved or, you know, if it ever gets on the agenda. So I am aware of that. And the deputy minister did mention North Slave region, you know. Here I keep saying it, we're not part of North Slave region. It would be nice, you know, just to identify the Tlicho region itself, then I would -- we would really know what is being, you know -- what are the projects that's going to be -- you know, it's going to be worked on in Tlicho region itself. Here 20 percent in North Slave region.

So it would be nice, maybe Minister of Finance can change that later on that, you know, with the -- or with Infrastructure. But it's just that it would be nice to -- for all the departments to recognize Tlicho region. We are not part of North Slave region because this is a bit misleading, and it's mostly Yellowknife, you know. So I just wanted to say that to make note of that if -- for future planning or future projects or anything like that, I would like to see Tlicho region, not North Slave region, then I will really know what is being proposed or what is being planned for my region. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, throughout this whole process here, I've heard the Member speak about having a separate region. It is a whole-of-government approach. So it's not just me as Minister of Infrastructure that could separate all the capital by making up a region, so it is a government approach. And I'm sure that this is something our Cabinet -- or we can have that discussion on. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Time is up. Are there any further questions, comments? Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Can someone just give me an update on the Fort Simpson LNG plant and whether that is on time and on budget for 2025-2026 completion?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So the planning for the Fort Simpson LNG project, so right now the project is on track but the flooding that happened in 2021 has caused some major delays. So after the flooding, we identified ongoing erosion area, the project scope was reevaluated and revised to be able to include relocating the existing diesel power plant. So the assessment work continues in this regard, including a climate lens cost estimation work and ultimately federal supports will be required to be able to move in project forward and help mitigate any potential rate impacts.

And if I can, Madam Chair, I'd just if, I can get Mr. Jenkins to just speak a little bit further on where we're at right now. I'm just trying to give you a high-level overview on what we're doing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So as the Minister mentioned after the spring 2021 flooding, really the project scope has been reevaluated and revised and recombined this with the relocation of the existing diesel power plant in the community, that project. So we continue to work with the Power Corporation in 2023-2024. We're going to continue to do that assessment work to combine those two projects together. And obviously we'll have to look at the costs and what the costs would be for combining those projects together, and then putting together a federal funding application for that work. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. MLA for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you. I guess I heard that -- well, there's two projects here and now they're going to be put together, and I get there was some relocation due to flooding and we actually haven't secured federal funding I heard yet. So can I just get -- 2025-2026 seems pretty ambitious to build a whole new LNG plant that we don't have money for yet. So is that timeline realistic? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to ask Mr. Jenkins to speak a little bit more in detail about the timelines. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So we have received some ICIP, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding for the Fort Simpson Liquefied Natural Gas Project. That was announced back in 2019. We've not put forward a funding application for the plant relocation project. So we're in a position now where, due to the recent events, we would be combining those projects. We feel it's best to combine those projects. And we would need to revisit our costs and apply for federal funding. That costing work and the climate lens work, which is a requirement in a lot of that federal funding applications, that work's underway. The climate lens work is a requirement. It did confirm that the current power plant location is at risk of flooding. I don't think that's a surprise to anyone. But we do have to jump through several hoops and provide the rationale for Canada in that regard.

I think that if we move forward with the funding application the following year, obviously we'll have to revisit the timing schedule. It is dependent on the equipment we need to order, the infrastructure we need to order, and the amount of time it takes to get that equipment. But in terms of permitting and other aspects, this is -- infrastructure's located within the municipal boundaries. So it doesn't have some of the same requirements as projects that are outside. So we do think that the timing could work at this point in time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Is it possible to make an estimated cost for the Whati transmission line public yet? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will get Mr. Jenkins to respond. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So at this point in time we're working with the Tlicho government to do technical refresh study, and a part of that is determining the most optimal route. So accordingly the -- depending on the route, the length, the terrain, a number of different factors will come into play when we develop cost estimates. So unfortunately we would not have a cost estimate at this point in time. Once we do the updated routing, we'll have to go back and develop that updated cost estimate, which would support the federal funding application. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you. I'm just trying to understand what it means when a project in the capital plan has, you know, ICIP or one of the federal funding pots in it. Does that actually signify that there's been agreement to get that money? I mean, the Whati transmission line, I hear that once we have a route we will then apply to get federal money. But -- so is it just we put a bracket that that's the hope of the pot we will get out of, or is there actually a bit more of a commitment or some preliminary agreement that this would actually get funding? If I could understand what that means, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to ask Mr. Jenkins.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So we do have a ten-year agreement with Canada, the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. There are a number of projects listed within that agreement in terms of no-show projects. But we still have to go back for each individual project, provide the information to Canada, including estimated costs and seek approval for each project. So the Whati transmission line would be a project that is listed no showing but it's not one for which we've formally applied and received approval from Canada, and we do not have a funding agreement for that project as of yet. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to repeat myself a couple times but, you know, what kind of happens when we do capital estimates is we have a confidential briefing note that gives you a bit of an update, and then we ask question like such as can someone give us an update of what's going on here. And I get there's a debate about the total amount and procurement; I have made that clear. But could the Department of Infrastructure perhaps look at making some sort of public kind of updating that goes with each capital plan. I just find it frustrating that I have to ask what's going on with Fort Simpson LNG when I didn't hear anything there that had to be confidential. It seems fine to publish where we are at with each project as we ask for more money, even if we're not going to say how much money were asking for. But at least some facts to be included with the capital plan, would that be something the department would be willing to look into? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I hear the Member's concern about, you know, having information here and there. And it looks like we perhaps need to go back to the department and have more of a streamlined communication on a lot of our projects. And I really think that once we get our dashboard online, it will have a one area to be able to go and look at different projects and where they're at and I think that would be helpful. We're not there yet. We understand the frustration from the Member, and trying to work to get this done. So give

us -- be patient with us, we'll get there. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you. One last one which I will ask for an update of, because this is not public information. It says here that the Mackenzie Valley environmental assessment and planning for the highway will be completed in 2025-2026. We all know that that's been in environmental planning for far longer than any of us wanted. But I'm just wondering if that's realistic given what I've seen regarding the change in timelines for a number of sections of the road and the bridges that are currently under environmental assessment. Do we actually think we're going to get to the EA by 2025-2026; do we have any sort of update on that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, so that's our aim. We are looking at the Mackenzie Valley environmental assessment planning and to be able to look at the -- some of the work that's going forward, detailed environmental assessment planning work, the environmental baseline studies, traditional knowledge. There's a number of things. And I can go on. I probably should just let the Member know that work is progressing. We did receive some funding for some components on -- from the National Trade Corridors Fund. We have an MOU signed with the Sahtu Secretariat. We are discussing a MOU with the PKFN. We are anticipating our developers report to be submitted to the environmental review board by the end of this fiscal year and to get some of this work started. Some of the work that's planned for this year, however, is the submission of the developers assessment report, also to advance the project through environmental assessment. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Are there any further questions, comments under energy and strategic initiatives? Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: No. Just in regards to the -- to the Tuk M18 natural gas well and the support that I guess we're having a little bit of issues with the federal government pushing it into review when it was -- it's a 71A land from Tuk, people of Tuk. And it's our land claim and it's our -- basically our right. So where does your government sit on this in regards and what are they doing to assist the Inuvialuit Development Corporation or Inuvialuit

Regional Corporation and the community of Tuk in regards to this project and the holdup that we're having being pushed towards screening. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, so we are -- the GNWT is supporting the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the partners, to be able to explore and develop the M18 natural gas well near Tuk and is a potential customer. And I think that's really important and key to know that we want this project going as much as we can, and I believe we continue to work with the Inuvialuit to support them in the plant. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. No, just in regards to Madam Minister that the GNWT do -- I guess did we talk to your federal counterparts in regards to seeing where they could go with this holdup in regards to put into screening? When it -- like, I'll argue again, I mean, it is a land claim and it's 71A lands. The people of Tuk own that land. And that land claim was signed in 1984. So why are they pushing it to screening and why is it going the way it's going when it shouldn't be with our federal government. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I hear the Member's concerns. You know, you look at the M18 well, this is -- I just want to note, like, the Department of Infrastructure's interest and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation interest is more of the customer side and looking at some of the conversions to be able to save us some work with the proponent on that. You know, right now, we don't really have much of a say to this. Maybe some other departments within GNWT -- and I'm seeing Minister of ITI nodding her head right now. So there are other departments involved. Right now we see it as part of Infrastructure more. We want to be a customer. We want to be able to have some conversion so that we can use the well to reduce some of our GHG. But all in all, Madam Chair, I really can't speak for the federal government in terms of them and their relationship with the Indigenous group. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: No, thank you, Madam Chair. Just in regards to -- I find a comment on that just, I guess we got to find a way in regards to seeing what the federal government's doing in regards to settled land claims holding up projects, putting it into screening. You know, it's -- if the Minister would I guess work with her colleagues and our Premier to take a look at that, to make sure that this -- this shouldn't be happening. And so if she could just commit to that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I'm looking over at Cabinet and my colleagues over there, and I'm looking at Ministers shaking their head, and perhaps even Premier. This is something that, you know, we did talk about earlier about going to the feds with some of our priorities and just having discussions on where we're at with projects that we want to see going forward. So I mean, we will have that discussion within Cabinet. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to get an idea of, I guess, where we are with the Fort Providence transmission line, you know, where we are in the process. We got a target completion, I think, by 2024-2025. Can the Minister just provide me a quick update on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, so looking at the transmission line, so we are conducting consultation engagement activities. We're doing the environmental studies, preparing a land use permit application. So I just want to note that to date we've had about 12 meetings held with Indigenous governments. 13 meetings have been held with stakeholders and some of the regulatory agencies. So the planned work that we have in this budget right now is to continue engagement consultation, submit our land use permit to be able to, yes, have those further discussions on pursuing this Fort Providence transmission line. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. And with respect to I guess costing this project, do we have a preliminary cost, and are we -- and if we do, are we updating that as, yeah, I guess prices and availability of material becoming a problem? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So we did publicly announce a \$60 million project for this, and it's under the ICIP program. So that was announced in 2021. Having said that, we do need to look as we go through some of the process of the planning, the environmental, submitting and preparing our permits, that we have to review costs and, you know, we've done that through infrastructure. With a lot of our projects we're finding, you know, get an announcement, and then we look at a project, we review the costs. So, I mean, it is something that perhaps it might not be \$60 million in a year or two times. So I just want to be cognizant of that. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, I'm pleased to hear it might not be 60; it could be 40. Or will it be more like the windmill up in the Delta?

So anyways, I just want to move on here to Fort Simpson. And I -- and just looking at that, the relocation of the diesel plant and then the setting up the LNG plant, they're both slated for completion at the same time. I guess I'm trying to figure out is one of those plants going to be a backup and one kind of running main power, or what's going on there? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is right, we are looking at the diesel plant relocation and also the liquefied natural gas. We are still scoping out. If I can have Mr. Jenkins speak a little bit more about the plans. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So we are still sort of looking at the combining of those projects but of course we're cognizant that you want to have a primary source of power and you want to have a backup source of power. So, you know, the project details itself, we were looking to convert -- move from diesel more to gas. A part of that is reducing our emissions, of course, and so -- but as we

move forward here with combining these two, the power plant and the LNG, we're going to be cognizant of making sure there's primary and backup sources of power. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. With respect to moving, I guess relocating the diesel plant, will all the equipment be relocated, or will there be some major upgrades to it while, you know, this process goes on because I guess it makes sense to me that if there's any major changes that have to be made, any new equipment has to be put in, now's the time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So right now we're looking at, and, you know, there will be an assessment done as well, but the LNG is new. We are looking at the relocation of the existing diesel power plant to higher ground, as we mentioned, to be eliminating the possibility of power in the community due to future flooding events. So that's where we're at right now. If Mr. Jenkins wants to add anything further. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So as the Minister mentioned, LNG is something new in the community, so there're new components there, of course. With the existing diesel infrastructure that is in the community, there had to be an assessment of whether there's a need to modernize that equipment. Is now the best time to do it? Is some of the equipment we have acceptable moving forward or not? Those are all things to be covered under the assessment as we scope out this project and pursue federal funding. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to go to the line diesel power plant, Infrastructure, territorial. Can the Minister just, I guess, provide me some insight into, you know, how many plants -- or, yeah, how many plants we're looking at and communities as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So the project, the overview, the project will support NTPC in its ongoing upgrades to its diesel power plant. So there's about 26 which will focus mostly on diesel engine replacements.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. You know, I look at this and I see diesel, and we talk about greenhouse gases and that. Has there been any thought, I guess, into looking at an alternate source, I guess, of fuel to -- for some of these, you know, smaller communities? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, so, you know, you look at some of the projects here in the territory, and it's quite diverse. We have diesel. We have -- starting a wind project. We've got hydro. We've got a number of energy projects. So installing some of these new engines, we'll be able to replace the reliability of the plants, provide for some of the increased fuel efficiency, lower our greenhouse gas emissions. So, I mean, these are a number of things that we are doing and recognizing that the Northwest Territories is quite vast and geologically spaced so we do have a number of struggles and challenges that we have to heat our communities. If I can get Mr. Jenkins to speak a little further on that. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So as the Minister mentioned, looking at really upgrades for these diesel power plants, and 26 of them, different communities, we are looking at different solutions, combination of renewables like wind, solar, looking at LNG conversions. But in many instances, there is a need for that diesel backup. And moving forward with some of these upgrades, as the Minister mentioned, will both improve the reliability of that backup power, whether it's backup or primary, and will increase the efficiency and lower our GHG emissions. So we are looking at different solutions, and there is a different energy mix in each community. But in some of these communities, ultimately there will be either diesel moving forward as a -- for the near future as the primary or as the backup, and in either situation, putting in these new engines will lower our GHG emissions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Okay, I just want to go to the line item there, hydro infrastructure -- or no, I guess it's community hydro, two community hydro projects to generate electricity. What are the two communities that those are going in? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, some of the community hydro -- the update on the feasibility study was completed in June of 2022 for a proposed mini hydro project to serve Gameti confirming there appears to be sufficient water available to meet some of the community's power needs. So the community of Gameti has applied for REACHE funding for phase 2 work, which is the technical and environmental. So funding has not been confirmed. Consultations with the Gameti and Tlicho government are required to be able to determine if the project moves forward. So we are -- the planned work under this project for 2023-2024, which is in this budget, is the technical studies and planning. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Members, we're going to take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want some clarity, and in dollars, the hydro -- Taltson hydro expansion planning process and where it's at. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the Taltson hydro expansion, our current status, technical work is underway. We have \$20 million set aside by Canada to advance the project. With the regulatory submissions, so these are rare and far, but they're about 100 percent funded. The scoping of major engineering contract to develop the remaining feasibility work for the project. So you look in the budget right now, some of the planned activities for 2023-2024 covers activities that are related to advancing the project to a point where it's ready for construction. This includes the engineering activities, environmental regulatory activities, engagement, commercial, and some

partnership discussions. Madam Chair, I do want to note that we do have a Cabinet meeting -- bilateral meeting in Fort Simpson next month, I believe. So I'm sure we'd be -- this topic will be brought up as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess one of the things I also want to talk about are the hydro infrastructure, the Power Corporation upgrades. The upgrades, could you please explain how much that is and how it entails to the Taltson hydro expansion.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So in terms of the overhauls, the project is in the construction phase. We did have, like any other project, some COVID-19 challenges that have delayed the completion date to 2023-2024. So it is deferred by a year, and some of the manufacturing of the turbine and generator was delayed because of the lockdown that happened in Spain and Italy. So some items were stored in Montreal. So delays are now scheduled for the 2023 winter road, which pushes the construction to start 2023.

In terms of the Snare -- no, I don't think -- I think the Member just asked about the Taltson. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Madam Chair. As you know, I'm a great supporter of green energy, and especially of the expansion of the Taltson, and it's in the area of the center of Fort Smith and our Thebacha riding. And I guess I'm -- you know, I've always been a strong supporter right from time that I've come here as a new Member in this Assembly, and I still continue to support this project tremendously. I also want to make sure that we look to the future and have a full board of people from across the territories. And I know there's lots of excuses being made for keeping deputy ministers but it's -- you know, if you're going to be truly an entity on your own and away from government, that has to happen and I wonder when that's going to happen. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I will take that as a

comment. I know it was a subject that was brought up on the floor a couple weeks ago in terms of where we're at with our NTPC government model and the review. So I will take that, and we have Cabinet here that will be making decisions as well on what we do as a government to look at the NTPC board. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: One of the concerns, Madam Chair, within the Fort Smith and the area that's affected with the green energy proposal is that a lot of the homes in the community and businesses are not able to hook up to the power grid as a form of green energy. So is that going to be part of the upgrades. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, developing the Taltson hydro electric system would connect ten of our communities to -- and 70 percent of the NWT population to one grid, also stabilize some of the costs of energy here in the territories, set a clean stage of economic growth, also improve energy security, reduce impacts on the energy system. So I think, if I can, Mr. Jenkins to elaborate a little further. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So I believe the Member is talking about residents who may be in remote areas that are unable to connect to the grid. I think that obviously there are remote power options but those types of discussions for residents in or adjacent to communities connecting to grid infrastructure are best directed to the Power Corporation on the communication between the corporation and residents as potential customers. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. For clarity, I want to ensure that small business and other public buildings and residents of Fort Smith have the option to connect to the green energy proposal that's before us, and is that going to happen even before the expansion takes place, because we have all this excess energy that is not being used, and I'd like to have clarity on that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, that's the intent. I mean, we have a 2030 Energy Strategy that we have to meet. We have targets. We have action plans every three years we look at and, you know, determine what do we need to do within some of our energy infrastructure projects. So that is something we are looking at going forward. So I take that as a comment, and I appreciate the Member's concern that we need to be able to move to more greener energy. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: I just want to thank -- Madam Chair, I just want to thank the Minister for her comments. I'm a big supporter of the Taltson expansion in the South Slave because it's good energy and it's going to be shared with also the residents of Yellowknife and other communities, and I look forward to a successful project. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I appreciate the Member's concern and support as well because that's really important as we push some of our projects going forward, to be able to get the support from the MLAs to help us work with Indigenous groups is key in being able to push these forward. And I do want to make a comment. Perhaps I didn't answer the earlier question but, you know, one of the Members mention that we did an MOU signing with one of the mines. So I mean, that's a great start going forward, to be able to work and capitalize on some of the work that we have for the Taltson. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: No more questions, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Are there any further questions under infrastructure, energy and strategy initiatives? Seeing none, committee, please turn to -- or sorry. Infrastructure, energy and strategic initiatives, infrastructure investment, \$62,213,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Committee, please turn to page 58, programs

and services, with information items on page 59. Minister, did you wish to switch out our witnesses for the next section?

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witness and bring in the new witness. Thank you.

Please introduce your witness.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Still with me today is my deputy minister Steve Loutitt, and Delia Chesworth who is assistant deputy minister for programs and services for this section. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Okay. So Members, Infrastructure, programs and services, infrastructure investments \$50,057,000. Are there any questions, comments? Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I see that there's, under the technology service centre, there's a replacement of our capital service network and storage infrastructure. Would someone be able to tell me the estimated cost of that replacement?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I'm going to have Delia speak to the technology service centre in the evergreen. So thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. ADM Chesworth.

MS. CHESWORTH: Thank you, Madam Chair. The work that is being done to evergreen the technology service centre is to replace infrastructure on a cyclical basis. Approximately one-sixth of our infrastructure is replaced on an annual basis with capital improvements to that infrastructure.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. I'm looking at page 58, and I see information technology projects is \$2.5 million. So can I just clarify that we spend \$2.5 million a year evergreening our current TSC servers, networks, and storage infrastructure? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we're going to have to get back to the Member on that. I would hate to be quoted on an exact number without further looking into the details on that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. You know, I guess, well I would like to know how much we actually spend on our server infrastructure. I believe it's something actually higher than \$2.5 million, and if not, tens of millions to replace it. But the whole point of this was leading to a question of I was wondering if the GNWT has looked into any cloud-based computing. I know that the federal government now has a cloud-first policy after the Treasury Board did an analysis and said that, you know, getting rid of their physical servers and switching to a cloud-based model would save them tens of millions of dollars. A lot of governments are going in this direction. It's a lot cheaper. I know there is security concerns, and you have to find a company that servers are in Canada. But I'm just wondering if any analysis is done on the millions of dollars we spend a year on physical servers to make a switch over to cloud. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I'm going to ask Ms. Chesworth if she can respond. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. ADM Chesworth.

MS. CHESWORTH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, we do continue to look at new technologies continuously, including the cloud, to see what option it is we have. We do need to work in very close concert with our colleagues in the Department of Finance and the Office of the CIO there, due to the security requirements. So it's a partnership that we work hand-in-hand with the Department of Finance. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, and I have raised this with the office of the chief information officer, and I know they're looking into it. And if the lines get blurred, I know as Health goes out and obtains new software, it may or may not be served on our physical servers, or it may be -- the lines get blurred yet we spend tens of millions of dollars in this area. I guess my next

question is considering the money that Infrastructure spends every year on what I consider IT, or what is actually labelled IT, has there been further consideration about whether this should be rolled into Finance? It seems that the overlap between ISSS and the chief information officer just gets more and more every single year and, yeah, I'm wondering if those conversations are happening, whether the TSC is best suited with ISSS? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, it's a discussion that the whole-of-government would take, would have that discussion and make those decisions. It's not, you know, up to me as Minister of Infrastructure who's responsible for technology shared services and Minister of Finance. But, I mean, it's a whole-of-government approach. It would need to be -- we'd need to have further discussions. So no, I don't think Minister of Finance would like anything further added to her portfolio. I can't speak for her but I would expect not. So, you know, we're not at that discussion yet. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you. And I guess I'll just -- one last question about the \$2.5 million under information technology projects here. So is the current split of when I see something in Finance and when I see something in Infrastructure just a hardware-software split? Is it all of -- does Infrastructure ever have software show up in this IT budget line or would this -- well, yeah, I guess the Minister's going to get back to me whether this is all evergreening or current physical infrastructure. But is that the general split, that you guys get the hardware and they get the software? Is that what's happening with this money? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Madam Chair, I think the Member answered his own question. Yes, we do look after the hardware. So it would be -- yes. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Are there any further questions, comments, under programs and services? Seeing none, Infrastructure, programs and services, infrastructure investments, \$50,057,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Members. Please return now to the departmental summary found at page 52. Member for Kam Lake.

COMMITTEE MOTION 313-19(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 723-19(2): CAPITAL
ESTIMATES 2023-2024 –
INFRASTRUCTURE – DEFERRAL OF
DEPARTMENT (PAGE 52),
CARRIED

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this commit defer further consideration of the estimates for the Department of Infrastructure at this time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Abstentions? Motion is carried. Thank you, committee.

---Carried

Is the committee prepared to move on to the next department?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, committee, and thank you to the Minister. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we will now consider the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

Committee, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is included in the capital estimates as an information item, and the totals are not voteable. We will continue to review these estimates as we have for the previous considered departments; however, we will not vote on the totals. If Members have comments or questions, they can be raised at the appropriate time. Does the Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation wish to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Yes, I do.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witness to the Chamber.

Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to introduce or welcome president Young and also vice-president Jim Martin. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Welcome. The committee has agreed to forego general comments. Does the commit agree to proceed to the detail contained in the tabled document?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation begins on page 71. We will defer the corporation totals and review the estimates by activity summary beginning at page 72 with finance and infrastructure services, with information items on page 73. Are there any questions, comments? Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. So I remember sitting here last year, and there was quite a big fight that the Housing Corp was only spending \$10 million on capital. And that's kind of the same number that has appeared in every capital budget. And now I see for the first time revised estimates of the current fiscal we're in, and we're spending \$104 million. So it probably would have saved us a lot of time and effort if we knew we were spending \$100 million and not \$10 million. But can someone just update me on where that money came from. You know, I know this -- I know we had that \$60 million carve off, and there was two \$30 million announcements, I believe. But, sorry, I just didn't know we were actually spending \$90 million this year on capital at present. So can someone tell me where that money came from. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We were very successful, I guess, in our federal engagements and conversations within this year. I'll have vice-president Jim Martin elaborate. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Vice-president Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. The revised capital estimates for 2022-2023 of approximately \$104 million is comprised of a few components. First off is the typical base-funded capital budget of approximately \$10 million. And then in addition to that for this year, we've had approximately \$7 million in capital carryovers from the previous year. And this is a result of the additional federal funding that Housing NWT has been receiving over the

last couple years. We received \$25 million from CMHC in 2021, and we received another \$25 million from CIRNAC in 2021-2022. And those dollars went directly into the capital plan, which is supporting the delivery of 100 new public housing units for the territory, and these are projects that are continuing to proceed and multiyear in nature and, as such, they were carried over. And then the third component is an additional approximately \$24 million that has been allocated this year from the initial \$30 million allocation from CIRNAC, again under budget 2022. So that's reflected in this year's revised capital estimates as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you. I guess I'll ask the same question about the \$35 million we're spending this fiscal. Can someone tell me where that money is coming from. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. That is coming from the federal engagement funding that we did receive from CIRNAC. I'll have president Young elaborate. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. President Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair. And so as the Member noted, we had an approximately \$10 million capital plan before we signed a new funding agreement with CIRNAC. Once we did receive that funding coming out of the 2022-2023 budget, we were able to adjust the portion of the \$30 million that's going toward capital into this budget and that is what results in the \$35 million capital plan. The balance of the \$30 million is going into O and M type expenditures, and that's why it's not exactly 30 plus ten. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I kind of understand that. I guess, does the Housing Corporation have a bit of a -- I mean, there's -- I'm looking at, you know, \$100 million being spent this year and \$35 million for next fiscal and, you know, maybe they'll even be more money. But do we have some sort of public facing other than this page capital plan of where things are going. I admit that I think many MLAs have been confused at

times with the different funding pools and what's being built where, but is there a bit of a five-year outlook of what we're going and how much we're spending. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We do have a list of where these projects are going to be and looking at the retrofits that we're going to be working on this year, I'll just have president Young respond as -- I'm not too sure if we could put this out there publicly or I'm not too sure. I'll have president Young elaborate. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): President Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair. And, yes, we have historically provided this to committee when requested but, again, because many of these are small projects that we are tendering to not impact the tender prices, we don't put the number of each individual project out publicly. But if requested, we can absolutely share that with committee. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: No further questions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Just further to the questions from my colleague from Yellowknife North, further than just the tendering process, there's definitely a sense in communities of kind of not knowing what direction Housing is going in or when their units might be updated or retrofitted or what kind of the future of housing looks like in the Northwest Territories. And that's not just even in small communities; that's regional centres. That's even here in Yellowknife. And so even though there's not, I guess, a willingness to put out a public document talking about tendering dollars, is there a willingness to put out a document of the capital plan of what retrofits, what new houses, kind of what is the capital plan, not talking about dollars but talking about how houses on the ground for Housing NWT. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have a number of retrofits and improvements that will be made throughout the Northwest Territories. We did complete the core need report was well too. I'll just have Jim respond because I just -- if we were to provide this and provide a technical briefing to share this information that we do have and what has been identified, but it's quite a bit of repairs that would be happening within the next couple of years. I'll have Jim elaborate.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Vice-president Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Housing NWT does develop a range of documents which speaks to planned capital investments. We do go through publishing an annual report every year and that gets tabled here in the Leg. We also participate in the annual business planning process of the GNWT and also provide information regarding capital outlooks in that area. And most recently, we've also developed a core need report which took into consideration the age of our assets and provided a 20-year outlook for capital investment needs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The beauty of the internet is I've now got the annual report in front of me here. And the annual report doesn't tell us what houses in what communities are going to be retrofitted by Housing NWT. It doesn't tell us what communities are going to see new houses. And what I'm thinking of here is that if there are community governments or Indigenous governments that want to get involved in housing and don't have kind of the ability to see where Housing NWT is going, it's hard for them to work in partnership with Housing NWT and to really support that work and to work together. And I know that some Indigenous governments are getting more involved in housing delivery across the territory, and I know that there are intimate conversations happening between Housing NWT and these organizations, but we also know that there are grassroots organizations that want to be involved as well, and they won't have those same -- the same ability to sit at those tables either. And so in order to have everybody, including NGOs, available to really work on this together, it requires a little bit of foresight into what that capital plan will be.

But I want to go on to my next question, and what I want to understand more is when I look

at the statistics of housing in NWT communities and the last kind of overall snapshot we had was in 2019 of -- done by -- sorry, Statistics NWT, and what that showed was that Colville Lake had the highest percentage of dwellings with housing issues in the Northwest Territories, and it showed that Colville Lake had 90 percent of its dwellings had housing issues. And what I see when I look at this list is that one unit is earmarked for Colville Lake. And so I'm wondering if the Minister can explain how Housing NWT decides what communities it works on projects in. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm just having a hard time to hear. My earpiece keeps on kind of shutting off and on I guess. But the Member had asked about the number of units that were going to be retrofitted in Colville Lake and how those numbers are determined, is that correct? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Yes.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: I'll have vice-president Jim Martin respond to how the information is collected and how these communities are identified in determining what retrofits need to happen in those specific communities. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Vice-president Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Each year Housing NWT goes through a fairly comprehensive review of our housing stock. We take into consideration factors such as the age and condition of our housing assets. We work very closely with our district offices, our local housing organizations, to get a really good sense of things such as maintenance history and other issues that may be emerging throughout the year such as failing foundation situations, etcetera. So it's a fairly comprehensive process to look at the current condition of our stock. We then -- once we have that baseline information, we then look at our available resources for the year within our fiscal framework, and then we do have to enter into a prioritization process, and we come up with a proposed plan based on need within the resources available.

And Colville Lake, for example, there's two public housing units in the community. And right now the average age of those two units is seven years. And there's other communities

that have assets that are much older and that are in greater need of investment. And as a result of that, our limited dollars would be directed to some of those higher priority areas. But we certainly recognize the importance of ensuring that Colville Lake, those units are maintained in a safe condition for our residents. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. So as was already noted, last year was a great year with lots of additional investments from the federal government to Housing NWT where they saw revised estimates of \$104 million. And so given that at this time last year we didn't know that this was coming, is Housing NWT anticipating working towards the same type of investment in the territory, where they've kind of set that bar and know that hopefully we'll all be able to be seeing the same kind of success next year with revised estimates in the capital plan? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And the Member is correct, and we did receive a -- out of the federal budget, we did receive 30 -- \$60 million over two years, and we do see carryovers on this submission as well too that just increases that number to \$104 million. So I anticipate that we probably would see something very similar as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Are there any further questions, comments to NWT Housing Corporation? Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. You know, I look at the list here and it's fairly extensive, and then I look at Hay River and I see 29 units. And I'm just -- for retrofits, major retrofits. With the flooding that happened this last spring, I'm just wondering where we are with those retrofits; has flooding impacted the work that's being done? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And this delivery here for the retrofits are for public housing. I wanted to just clarify that. And I'll have president Young elaborate on the flood response that happened this year in Simpson and the surrounding communities

in Nahendeh and Hay River. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): President Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair. And just this morning I had an update so I can provide a fairly timely update to the Member on the work in Hay River.

We are happy to report that we haven't had an awful lot of supply chain issues with the contractors in Hay River. At this point, we're pretty confident that we should have our seniors back in their accommodation by mid to third week of November, and the single family homes very close to that. The only possible slippage we may see is we had one unit that was identified late with the foundation issue. Depending on what our contractors tell us there, that work may have to be completed in the spring when the freezing lets up but we will find that out in the next few weeks. So very good progress from our contractors there in doing the recovery from the flooding in Hay River, and we're really pleased with that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I see that in Hay River you have the RCMP units going up, and they seem to be moving along fairly steadily, making good time on it. There's two other units I think in Hay River as well, individual units that are going up in the same vicinity. Are they on schedule? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, they are.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. And also looking at the RCMP units, I see they do have a crawl space there and those buildings are in the area where flooding did occur. I'm just wondering what consideration was given, I guess, to mitigate any future damage by flooding in those buildings and if, you know, and if we've got insurance on them, I guess, or if there's insurance on them, does it cover flooding? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll have vice-president Jim Martin respond. I don't have those technical about crawl spaces and basements, and I don't have that in my material. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Vice-president Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Housing NWT does continue to monitor that situation. We do recognize that there is risk certainly associated with foundation integrity, and we are working with our engineers to fully assess that situation and make sure there's mitigation measures in place. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Hay River South. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess the question that I have first is in terms of how funding works for public housing, can you explain how funding works for public housing, where money comes in from CMHC for minor and major capital projects, operation and maintenance, and that kind of thing on an annual basis for a typical public housing unit. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. For that level of detail, I'll defer the question over to president Young. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. President Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair. Overall in terms of our revenue, approximately 30 percent comes from the federal government, a combination this year of CMHC and CIRNAC funding, and most of that funding from CIRNAC is intended for capital but, as mentioned, there is flexibility to use it for some O and M expenses. For CMHC, the money, again, is for both because the arrangement we have with CMHC, the bilateral arrangement we have, over time they have been reducing our O and M funding to the territory but we have got a bilateral arrangement in place to continue funding flowing to us for the delivery of housing programs. On top of that -- and sorry, I might have my number mixed up just slightly, but I do remember approximately 10 percent of the funding is own source revenue through rental collections and the balance of the funding comes from GNWT through both capital and O and M. So that's where our

funding sources are to fill both our O and M and capital plan. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Okay, so that helps me to understand how the funding works a bit. In here, in the Northwest Territories, you had -- I think you had mentioned during committee that there's about 2,400 public housing units in total. Of that amount, here in Yellowknife how much of that public housing units we have that are either -- do you consider rent supplement program as public housing where you lease, say, from Lanky Court and that kind of thing, is that considered public housing? Or is it something different altogether. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The rent supplementary program is just a program to support private rentals, and it's separate from public housing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess when the \$60 million federal housing allocation was determined and there was a picture in the CBC here page and they talked about the allocation for the next two years of -- coming from the \$10.1 billion, the housing, of that \$60 million, it says right here that it's a drop in the bucket that was mentioned by the Premier but at the same time it's supposed to address the housing crisis here in the Northwest Territories. So what I don't understand is that when I go through your list here, right now on public housing on page 73, it's highlighted that all these public housing units are funded by CIRNAC and it's an arrangement that you guys can tell me, but what I don't understand is that here in the Northwest Territories right now, that if I were to take a look in my riding, say, there's 340 houses that needs to be retrofitted times 200 -- 200,000 just to retrofit that unit, but then you got 33 communities in the Northwest Territories that probably fall into that same category so we're looking at about \$2.2 billion just to fix up housing in the Northwest Territories. So I -- we've been here for 50 years already. So what I don't see is -- how come you guys don't have a plan to address these outstanding issues on the housing crisis in the Northwest Territories? So

can you tell me maybe a bit about this so that I understand as to how you guys are going to deal and tackle the housing crisis here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And the Member is correct, you know, we did get the \$60 million over two years but that was ongoing federal engagements and conversations that was happening with the federal government, and we also do have the 100-unit rollout as well and also acknowledging seniors within that rollout as well. We've also worked very closely with the federal government to enhance their co-investment application for the Indigenous governments as well too, and for stakeholders and NGOs throughout the Northwest Territories. And separate from that, I just -- I don't want to kind of get off into a tangent here but then there's just -- you know, there's the \$500 million that's coming here to the Northwest Territories that has been identified for specific Indigenous groups through the distinction based funding. With that, together we are working in conjunction in trying to provide adequate support at the community level as well. We've entered into the community housing plans where these would become lobbying documents to address the housing, those specific housing needs in the smaller communities. One thing that the portfolio has done is try to come up with very unique and innovative ideas on how to address housing in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, I think there's got to be a way because, you know, the way I read this document to the Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories when you see \$30 million going to -- and that's coming from Ottawa that was probably negotiated or application was made to get that money, but at the end of the day it does this makes sense to fix up public housing with CIRNAC dollars when we are in a housing crisis here in the Northwest Territories. So going forward, you know, like we're going to have to develop a better strategy as to how we're going to deal with this. Yes, we need -- we do need money to fix up a lot of these houses in the community. The reports already say that that's coming out. So my question, I guess, at the end of the day is that how are you going to

work with Indigenous governments to find better monies or work with them so that they could start fixing up these units in the communities? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And this delivery that we do have is just repairing our own public housing units, and we haven't seen this amount of money come into the territories in decades. And I just think of the -- we are working with the Council of Leaders as well too and looking at, like, our policies and looking at the community housing plans, it might seem not as significant to the Member but this -- there's been extensive work in creating these documents and just really looking at what is required at the smaller community level. And what I've seen throughout the Northwest Territories is those needs -- housing needs throughout the territory are not the same, and we have some communities that are strictly looking at either homeownership; they're looking at more public housing units; they're looking at putting more construction on the ground. And it just varies throughout the territory. But we do have a limited budget as well too that I just really wanted to highlight that. \$60 million is not very much to be honest. That's what our 100-unit rollout was about in the last year. And I see what \$30 million looks like. And this is what we were able to acquire. But then with the success of the distinction based funding, it's really started to create a lot more conversation and a lot more positive responses at the local community level. We are there to be working with the Indigenous groups. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Overall I guess at the end of the day is that, you know, we're still in a housing crisis here in the Northwest Territories. It's significant. It's right across the board in all 33 communities. And I don't see a plan. But overall, I think maybe is, you know, the aboriginal governments are now looking at going directly to Ottawa to get the same pots of money but they're competing with the Housing Corporation somehow, and that needs to be looked at again because what -- the reason why they're doing this because they have to jump through these hurdles to qualify with their own people through the Housing Corporation but now they want to go directly to Ottawa and get that pots of money directly given to them. So I'm just thinking, you know, the Housing

Corporation is 50 years old already and it still seems like they can't get it right. So maybe it's something that we need to take a look at that. You know, sooner or later that the Housing Corporation structure itself, you know, is it meeting the needs of the people here in the Northwest Territories for housing, whether it be in the homeownership or repairs. So my final question will be is that do you foresee that happening? I mean right now as it is, we can't keep going the way we are status quo because nothing's going to happen. We're going to be bureaucratic red tape, and things need to change. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And, you know what, I have to disagree with the Member because looking at the funding that has been distributed out throughout the Northwest Territories, that was in partnership working with Indigenous groups and creating this working table on what is required. And my message to the federal government was if you're not going to be funding the territorial government directly, then fund Indigenous groups and we'll work with them and we'll try to see what it is that they would require at the community level. And that's where the community housing plans started to come up. And I hear the Member that it doesn't sound quite significant, but this is a very useful document that identifies every single housing need in a smaller community, and it's internally funded by Housing Corporation to see these documents completed.

And also I wanted to kind of come back and just highlight our renewal as well too that we've established that we've never had that within the portfolio as well, and also looking at our policy changes and trying to better communicate and better deliver our programming as well too and working with the public, working with Indigenous groups, stakeholders throughout the territory. Housing is not the only entity in the Northwest Territories that is going to solve this housing crisis. We need the NGOs. We need the Indigenous groups. We need to be working at those tables in collaboration. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Are there any further questions, comments from Members? Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just in regards to the units that I have going into my communities on the project listings, I just want to make sure that we are getting

stick-built and we're not getting prefab units because we are getting -- it looks like they're trying to send the prefab unit in the community of Tuk. And talking with my leadership, they don't want it. They want stick-built units, which are going to provide work and be able to provide a little bit -- a little bit of employment. And it's the same thing right across within Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok, you know, all of my communities, they should be getting stick-built. Prefabs are not working. So what's the Minister's thoughts on that? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through the allocation of the federal funding, the Housing NWT had to become very creative in how we were going to put this application in and putting it forward. But this was actually a modular unit delivery that was a requirement through the federal funding that we did access. But what we're looking at as well too is looking at a balance of stick-built and modular units. And in respect to the Member's riding as well, I did have the opportunity to come and visit that -- visit his communities as well, and I realized and I understand that there's a different dynamic and a different environment of buildings that need to be constructed in his riding. But I can follow up with the Member to give him a further update. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Member for Nunakput.

MR. JACOBSON: Make a statement, Madam Chair; we're failing. All the stuff that we're doing in all the major retrofits and stuff like that, like I asked them in regards to taking units the out, giving them to clients so we could get CMHC funding to get more units put into the community. Nothing. We tried to work with them. Nothing. All the stuff that we do with this Minister, we wear it as just like in the communities that she said she come to visit. I'm still waiting on numerous, probably three or four things that need to be done from those visits. So all this stuff that we're talking about right now, you know, it's -- we're just failing. Housing's failing. And we need to right that wrong. You want to work together? Yeah, let's work together. Let's get it done. Make the decision. You have the people in the room to make the decision. So let's do it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Are there any further questions, comments from Members? Seeing no further questions, I remind the committee that the

estimates for the Northwest Territories are included in the capital estimates as information items only. The committee will not be voting on the activity total. Committee, please return to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation summary on page 70. Member for Kam Lake.

COMMITTEE MOTION 314-19(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 723-19(2): CAPITAL
ESTIMATES 2023-2024 – NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES HOUSING CORPORATION –
DEFERRAL OF CORPORATION (PAGE 71),
CARRIED

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the estimates for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation at this time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is being distributed onto the floor now. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? The motion is carried. Thank you, committee.

---Carried

Is committee prepared to move to the next department? Yes, okay. Thank you, committee, and thank you to the Minister. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

We agreed to consider Tabled Document 723-19(2), Capital Estimates 2023-2024. Committee, we will now consider the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Does the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources wish to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Yes, I do, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. On my right is deputy minister Erin Kelly, and on my left is Jessica St. Arnaud, director of finance. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, welcome. The committee has agreed to forego general comments. Does the committee agree to proceed to the detail contained in the tabled document?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources begins at page 23. We'll defer the departmental totals and review the estimates by activity summary beginning at page 25 with environment protection and waste management with information on page 26. Are there any -- Environment and Natural Resources, environmental protection and waste management infrastructure investments, \$80,000. Question, comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee agrees? Okay. Committee, please turn to page 28, forest management, with information items on page 29. Environment and Natural Resources, forest management, infrastructure investments, \$1,592,000. Questions, comments? Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Committee, please turn to page 30, wildlife and fish, with information items on page 31, Environment and Natural Resources, wildlife and fish, infrastructure investments \$400,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Members. Please return now to the departmental summary on page 23, Environment and Natural Resources, 2023-2024 Capital Estimates. Oh, Member for Kam Lake.

COMMITTEE MOTION 315-19(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 723-19(2): CAPITAL
ESTIMATES 2023-2024 – ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES – DEFERRAL
OF DEPARTMENT (PAGE 23),
CARRIED

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the estimates for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at this time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Motion is carried. Thank you, committee.

---Carried

Is the committee prepared to move on to the next department? Thank you, committee, and thank you Minister. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we've agreed to consider Tabled Document 723-1(2), Capital Estimates 2023-2024. Committee, we will now consider the Department of Lands. Does the Minister of Lands wish to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Yes, I do.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses to the Chamber.

Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. On my left is deputy minister Jamie Koe, and on my right is Katherine Macdonald, director of finance.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, welcome. Committee has agreed to forego general comments. Does the committee agree to proceed to the detail contained in the tabled document?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, the Department of Lands begins on page 65. We'll defer the departmental totals and review the estimates by activity summary beginning at page 66 with operations with information items on page 67. Lands, operations, infrastructure investments, \$225,000. Does committee agree? Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I recall last year when we were doing this, Lands actually had to carry over a truck because there was a bit of an international supply chain shortage with obtaining trucks. And I also we call at some point during COVID, a few of the dealerships got mad because they were unable to deliver trucks and we ended up going down south for tenders. But I'm just wondering if the department is feeling confident of its ability to now purchase new trucks and hopefully locally if possible. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Lands.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Yes. And yes to both questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. MLA for Yellowknife North. No?

MR. JOHNSON: That's good, get those trucks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Madam Chair. More of a comment. I just wanted to say that I think it's great that we're moving towards unisex washrooms versus trying to have gendered bathrooms. It makes more sense. It's more diverse, and it allows for us to have flexibility. So us women aren't always waiting on the bathroom and men can wait with us too. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): All right. That's a comment. Did you want to respond, Minister? He's not even getting the mic.

All right, any further questions, comments? Lands, operations, infrastructure investments, \$225,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Members. Please return now to the departmental summary found on page 65. Member for Kam Lake.

COMMITTEE MOTION 316-19(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 723-19(2): CAPITAL
ESTIMATES 2023-2024 – LANDS –
DEFERRAL OF DEPARTMENT (PAGE 65),
CARRIED

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the estimates for the Department of Lands at this time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is being distributed on to the floor. The motion is order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? Motion is carried. Thank you, committee.

---Carried

Thank you, Minister, and to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that the chair rise and report progress. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): There's a motion on the floor to report progress. The

motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? I will now -- the motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MS. SEMMLER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 33-19(2), Bills 52 and 48, Tabled Document 723-19(2), and would like to report progress, with 13 motions adopted. And that consideration of Committee Report 33-19(2) is concluded. And that Bill 52 is ready for third reading, and that Bill 48 is ready for third reading as amended. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

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

---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 Wednesday, October 26th, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
 - Oral Question 1163-19(2), Homelessness
 - Oral Question 1188-19(2), Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Red Cross
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 Motion
 16. Motions
 17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
 18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 58, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
 - Bill 59, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2022
 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
 - Committee Report 34-19(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Ombud
 - Tabled Document 723-19(2), 2023-2024 Capital Estimates
 21. Report of Committee of the Whole
 22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 48, Arbitration Act
 - Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act
 23. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

