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**LEGISLATIVE  
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**20<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

**HANSARD**

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**The Honourable Shane Thompson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Shane Thompson**  
(Nahendeh)

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Employment*  
*Minister of Industry, Tourism and  
Investment*

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(Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh)

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(Yellowknife Centre)

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*Minister responsible for the Status of  
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*Minister responsible for the NWT Power  
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(Monfwi)

**Mrs. Sheryl Yakeleya**

(Dehcho)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, February 26, 2024****Members Present**

Hon. Caitlin Cleveland, Mr. Edjericon, Mr. Hawkins, Hon. Lucy Kuptana, Hon. Vince McKay, Mr. McNeely, Ms. Morgan, Mr. Morse, Mr. Nerysoo, Ms. Reid, Hon. Lesa Semmler, Hon. R.J. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Weyallon Armstrong, Hon. Caroline Wawzonek, Mrs. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Shane Thompson):** I'd like to thank Jonas Sangris for tiding words and blessing this morning.

Members, before we start, I'd just like to reiterate when you're talking when other people are speaking, sometimes it becomes a distraction. So if you guys wish to have conversations, please go into the Members' lounge or pass notes and be respectful of everybody. So thank you very much.

Ministers' statements. Minister for Education, Culture and Employment.

**Ministers' Statements**

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 21-20(1):  
ENHANCING THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES WORKFORCE**

**HON. CAITLIN CLEVELAND:** Mr. Speaker, in recent years employers have faced challenges in recruiting the employees they need to succeed. The Northwest Territories, and Canada as a whole, are currently experiencing a tight labour market, which means we have more jobs than available workers.

Mr. Speaker, we must act now to ensure that our residents have the training, education and supports they need to participate and be fulfilled in our labour market. Equipping residents to pursue career opportunities also ensures that our businesses have access to a skilled workforce. The goals of strengthening our workforce, enhancing skills, and building our economy are woven through three government strategies:

- The Immigration Strategy;
- The Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupational Certification Strategy; and,
- Skills 4 Success.

The immigration and apprenticeship strategies concluded in 2022, and the government is now looking to extend these strategies into 2025 informed by public and stakeholder engagement that began last month.

Mr. Speaker, we know that we have skilled and ambitious workers and employers across the territory. From carpenters and electricians, to plumbers, heavy equipment technicians, housing maintainers, and every career in between, the services that apprentices and tradespeople provide have a real impact on Northerners. These skilled workers guarantee that the lights go on, that roofs go over heads, that plumbing works, heating systems operate, and roads are built.

Under the Apprenticeship, Trades, and Occupational Certification Strategy, there was a notable rise in Indigenous and female apprentices. From 2016 to 2022, there were eight percent more Indigenous apprentices and 6 percent more female apprentices. Additionally, there was a substantial increase in participation in the Schools North Apprenticeship Program, commonly referred to as SNAP, which expanded from no students in 2016 to 37 students as of January 2024. These are positive signs as demand for these skills is soaring. As we extend the apprenticeship strategy, we intend to build on these successes and identify new measurable actions for the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, there is also a need to attract new skilled workers and investment from outside the territory. Since the immigration strategy was launched, we have seen growth of over 240 percent in the number of approved applications under the employer-driven stream. Over 500 individuals made the NWT their permanent home, including approved nominees and their family members. Through the business stream, \$4.5 million was invested in the NWT. We also saw 6 percent more Francophone applications that were approved by the end of the strategy. With the launch of the new Francophone stream in 2022, we hope to see further growth in Francophone immigration.

Mr. Speaker, we know that labour markets are tight across the country. It is vital that the NWT be creative and competitive to develop and attract skilled workers. The government will continue to analyze our progress and improve upon our work. I would like to thank those who have taken the time to participate in our engagement sessions to date. Your input and ideas strengthen these important economic and employment-driven strategies that guide our work.

Over the coming months, the Government of the Northwest Territories will report on our engagement to extend each of these strategies. I look forward to sharing what we heard with Members, the NWT business community, the public, and other partners. Together we can build on past successes by growing and strengthening our labour market that is vital to our continued success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Ministers' statements. Minister of Infrastructure.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 22-20(1):  
2023 TRANSPORTATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECTS

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Speaker, transportation infrastructure plays a crucial role in connecting people, ensuring effective supply chains, and creating opportunities for economic growth. Today I would like to highlight recent successes in our continued efforts to improve the transportation networks towards to improving accessibility and road safety across the territory. For example, in 2023 the Department of Infrastructure completed 158 kilometres of chip seal overlay on Highways No. 2, 4, and 5 as well as along the Dettah Access Road. Highways No. 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8 also saw rehabilitation work such as embankment widening and drainage improvement. The Fort Good Hope bridge deck replacement was successful, and the first phase of rehabilitation work was completed on the Whati Access Road.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to improving the existing highway system, the Department of Infrastructure is also working on advancing new road projects. In the Sahtu region, the construction of phase one of the Prohibition Creek Access Road was substantially completed in the fall of 2023 and forms part of the future Mackenzie Valley Highway. Total completion of this 6.7-kilometre all-season-road, located just south of Norman Wells along the existing Mackenzie Valley Winter Road alignment, is anticipated this fall.

In October of last year, we achieved a significant milestone in the environmental assessment process for the Mackenzie Valley Highway when we submitted our developer's assessment report to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. This report, which is now undergoing a public review process led by the board, is a comprehensive collection of several years of environmental and socio-economic data and public engagement. Phase one of the proposed Slave Geological Province Corridor project is also underway. To support planning for the proposed Lockhart All-Season Road, the GNWT has acquired a Type A land use permit through the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. This permit allows the GNWT to conduct geotechnical investigations from Tibbitt Lake to Lockhart Lake which will help inform routing discussions associated with this project.

Mr. Speaker, airports are also an essential part of our transportation system. Communities across the territory depend on air travel for the movement of goods and people, as well as air ambulances, search and rescue, forest fire response and much more. I am pleased to share that the Inuvik runway extension is well underway, with material extraction almost 90 percent complete and runway widening nearing the 80 percent completion mark.

Mr. Speaker, maintaining and enhancing our transportation network as we face the impacts from a changing climate is challenging. In addition to longstanding obstacles like remote locations and high cost of construction, we must also consider factors like degrading permafrost in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our transportation projects. The department continues to work in partnership with universities and other research organizations to find solutions using more sustainable design and construction techniques. Several research projects are ongoing on Highway No. 3 where emerging road design technologies and innovative materials were put in place in 2012 for testing, and their performance continues to be monitored. The ongoing results inform how we complete maintenance and upgrades on that technically difficult stretch of highway. I look forward to continuing bring successful improvement projects updates forward in later sessions to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Infrastructure. Ministers' statements. Mr. Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 23-20(1):  
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that the Honourable Jay MacDonald will be absent from the House today to meet with federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Indigenous leaders on the project Finance for Permanence in Ottawa, Ontario.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. Member from Range Lake.

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT 105-20(1): WORKING WITH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, here in this Assembly, we are under no illusions that we face some tough problems in the territory, from homelessness to addictions to gendered violence and poverty. Thankfully, though, our government does not need to work toward the solutions alone. The Northwest Territories is home to a vast network of vital non-government organizations, and they have done incredible work on their respective issues. Each NGO fulfills a crucial role in the North and let me tell you they are all led by some incredible advocates who are taking action to make our territory a better place to live every day. Unfortunately, while these NGOs present the GNWT with a wealth of knowledge and dedication to tap into, they remain unsupported and unheard by decision-makers. They struggle with year to year funding that prevents them from planning their operations in the long term. The support they do get is often only enough to keep the lights on. I've heard time and time again that non-profit red tape is over-incumbering, wasting time and resources that could be better spent towards the services they provide. Most of all, they feel frustrated because they care so deeply about their communities but are held back from reaching their true potential. They just want to get to work but poor relations with the government that funds them has stretched them thin. This government needs to support NGOs, Mr. Speaker. It's not just enough to recognize and celebrate their work. The government must create stronger working relationships with them. That means treating them fairly, accepting their knowledge, and providing them with the resources they need. This kind of partnership is what they are lacking. Only through cooperation with civil society can the government achieve all that it is set out to accomplish in its ambitious priorities. This is how we get the North moving together in the same direction of positive change and meaningful progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Range Lake. Members' statements. Member from Boot Lake.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT 106-20(1): CONGRATULATIONS TO INUVIK ATHLETES AND ORGANIZERS

**MR. RODGERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given the robust issues of public policy and budgetary items we'll discuss this week, I would like to start the week with a positive story from my riding of Inuvik Boot Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation hosted a 35th annual IRC Cup this weekend in Inuvik. As always, the event was very well attended with teams of fans travelling to Inuvik from the communities in the Inuvialuit settlement region, the Beaufort Delta, and beyond. This year's A finals saw the KD Outlaws from Aklavik defeat the Inuvik Huskies. And in the B final, the Kwanlin Dun team from Whitehorse defeated the team from Paulatuk. I would like to congratulate IRC chair Duane Smith and his incredible group of volunteers for once again hosting an amazing event. This year's event included not only great hockey, but cultural events and traditional food were made available throughout the weekend.

This year's event, Mr. Speaker, was also attended by the ITK president Natan Obed. He not only took part in the opening ceremonies, but he suited up and played with the KD Outlaws. He celebrated his birthday on Sunday, and a packed house serenaded him with a happy birthday; a nice memory to be sure to go along with his victory in the A final.

Mr. Speaker, as well, the Inuvik Curling Centre sent 27 junior curling athletes as well as six chaperones and coaches recently to the annual Rock and Rings curling event in Yellowknife. The Rocks and Rings curling event is held annually in Yellowknife and has three age categories, U-12, U-15, and U-20. It also runs a U-15 doubles event as well as a U-20 doubles curling event.

I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that Inuvik swept all five events and took ten of the 15 available podium positions. The winners in the U-12 were Sierra Scheiwiller, Miguel Castillo-Drescher, and Mairy Kingmiagtug-Devlin. The under 15 was Jasper Willkomm, Jacob Robertson, Atticus Willkomm, and Jett Etter. Under 20, Reese Wainman, Alex Testart-Campbell, Brooke Smith, Tamara Bain. Under 15, in the doubles, Jacob Robertson, Atticus Willkomm. And under 20 doubles was Alex Testart-Campbell and Tamara Bain. Names.

I would like to congratulate all the junior curling coaches in Inuvik for the outstanding dedication to the sport, and it's great to see that their hard work has paid dividends, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend also hosted the annual Canadian North bonspiel in Inuvik, a curling bonspiel. This event was also well attended, and the champions this year were Skip Mark Robertson, Tyanna Bain, Kevin McLeod, and Grant Convey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Inuvik Boot Lake. Members' statements. Member from Great Slave.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 107-20(1):  
EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY

**MS. REID:** Mr. Speaker, Some MLAs have met the Executive Director of the NWT Disabilities Council. And all 19 of us heard from this organization as a group together right after we were elected. The council continues to have serious concerns regarding the extended health benefits policy which was originally scheduled to change on April 1 of this year. As announced at the end of January, it's now slated for roll out in September.

I'm happy that the department took the direction to ensure access to extended health benefits for folks of limited means, but I have concerns with the knock-on impacts to residents who might be negatively affected by this policy change. The last government noted in October 2023 that 2,200 people in our territory are likely eligible for EHB under this new policy. There is a concern that some of those 2,200 people may make enough money to not be eligible for coverage but also not have adequate coverage through their place of work. What will that then mean for maintaining a healthy workforce across the spectrum of opportunities in the North? There are concerns that folks will only want to work where there is extensive workplace health insurance if indeed they can get those jobs. There is the possible implication of increases in emergency room usage as people who lose part or all of their coverage under the old policy due to changes may feel compelled to attend the ER to deal with chronic issues where it is free to do so. Those are just two big picture examples that were shared with us as concerns from the council. And so, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Great Slave. Before I go on to the next person, the interpreters are asking people to slow down.

Please slow down. Thank you. Members' statements. Member from Sahtu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 108-20(1):  
GREAT BEAR RIVER BRIDGE

**MR. McNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a follow-up on my statement of last week there. Mr. Speaker, my question today is a carryover from last week's Great Bear River Bridge application's birthday. 18 years ago, the original application permit was submitted. This original data is very helpful to avoid duplications and costs for this government's resubmission. On the issue of Sahtu determination, my understanding the hamlet of Tulita recently issued their support for the upcoming application. Later I'll have questions for the appropriate Minister. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from the Sahtu. Members' statements. Member from Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 109-20(1):  
IMPROVING PUBLIC HOUSING IN TU  
NEDHE-WIILIDEH COMMUNITIES

**MR. EDJERICON:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad we could come together and agree that housing is one of the four key priorities of the mandate of the 20th Assembly. Now that we've made this commitment, it is time to turn our words into action. Fixing up so many homes will be a difficult task, but I know where we could start - by evaluating all the homes in the communities of Tu Nedhe so that we can take those estimates to the federal Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs so that they can make the investment necessary to get the work done. However, those investments have to go directly to the First Nations. Only through the federal government working together and with Indigenous governments will we see a real progress on housing apprenticeship and training in my communities. The federal government has the resources we need to get these homes renovated. The Indigenous governments just need to secure those resources and ensure that it goes directly to Indigenous governments and that it is where the need -- sorry, and that is where we need the GNWT in partnership to secure funding so that we are able to do homeownership inspections and to help put a proposal together to CIRNAC. We're not asking for much from the territory government, just a commitment to work with Indigenous governments as equals and backing up their case in Ottawa. I know the Premier last year spoke of a future with collaboration with



Indigenous governments that shares powers. Why not start working together in a collaborative approach for future secure this vital funding? It is not just a Premier vision that supports a greater role of Indigenous governments, it's also the law. The last Assembly passed the United Nation Declaration of Indigenous people, UNDRIP, and the mandates of equal relationship between the GNWT and the Indigenous governments. The GNWT must work to improve housing in accordance with this law so it must respect Indigenous governments want to take the lead. This is a goal. We must start working together soon as possible as people are living in homes that are rapidly aging. Some of them are living in houses that are upwards to 50 years old. If we start now and get these costs in writing, we can get the ball rolling and get these homes repaired and modernized as quickly as possible with federal investment. I look forward to the Minister's response to my proposal when I bring my questions forward later today. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from the Tu Nedhe-Willideh. Members' statements. Member from Monfwi.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 110-20(1):  
MUNICIPAL FUNDING GAP

**MRS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, [Translation] I'm talking about the community. I want to talk about the municipal government that they have lack of funding [Translation ends] and a lot of discussion in this House about the gap in funding for communities.

Over the 19th Legislative Assembly, the GNWT increased funding by \$5 million to NWT communities; however, with the cost of inflation we know this funding does not near close the gap. Even with the additional \$5 million, the gap for municipal funding continues to grow.

I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, how the funding gap impacts employees of municipalities and communities. In my region, lately the community government have been hiring women in nontraditional jobs. There are some women who drive trucks that deliver water, that collect garbage, empty sewage, and maintain roads. Not only are these women able to learn new skills, but they are also able to maintain a secure job at home with their children in their communities. I hear from community government workers in my region they love their jobs. They love working in their communities and providing essential services for their people, but the salary is a struggle.

Mr. Speaker, if this is how workers in my region are feeling, what about the communities further north with even higher operating costs?

Mr. Speaker, we know that municipalities and communities are underfunded so they struggle to provide the essential community services and balance their books at the end of the day. How does this impact workers? How is this impacting NWT residents in communities who want to live and work in their community? I will have question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Monfwi. Members' statements. Member from Mackenzie Delta.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 111-20(1):  
INADEQUATE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS  
FOR MEDICAL TRAVEL CLIENTS

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to bring up the concern that has been circulated on social media and on territory news in the past couple of weeks - the displeasure of our patients being housed in the Quality Inn establishment.

There have been countless stories of how unpleasant of an experience it has been for the patients to stay in this hotel. Mr. Speaker, I myself can confirm these stories because I was a patient who was referred to this establishment because the boarding home was full. The noted hotel is not a suitable place for anyone to stay, let alone patients. The hotel does not have adequate heating. Most windows are screwed shut. There's mold in the washrooms and inadequate housekeeping services.

Due to the boarding home being full, I had no choice but to stay at the hotel. I stayed there one night, and the next day I pleaded with the staff at the boarding home to get me a room as soon as one becomes available. Later that morning, I received a call stating a room is available and I moved there for the remainder of my stay. There are others who are not that fortunate and have to stay in the hotel for a few days - a few days too long.

Mr. Speaker, during my time in Yellowknife I've been contacted by a number of constituents who pleaded for help in finding a different place to stay. I did not have a place of my own at the time so I myself felt helpless in assisting these people. Today I have a place of my own, and if someone calls for help with a place to stay and I have the room, I will not turn them away. There are others who are able to afford a room at their own expense and do so without being reimbursed.

Mr. Speaker, these people vary from dental patients to cancer patients. No matter the severity of their medical condition, no one should be subject to stay at this hotel. I will have questions for the Minister of health at the appropriate time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Mackenzie Delta. Members' statements. Member from Yellowknife Centre.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 112-20(1):  
COST OF LIVING

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about cost of living and how it impacts all Northerners, especially from the side of this particular House, my colleagues and I, where we work together and we share in some of the collective burden talking about these issues and sharing them with the government about what Northerners struggle.

Mr. Speaker, cost of living isn't just an individual issue, it's a territorial issue. And if anything, I'd certainly identify it as a crisis that needs to be a hallmark of this Assembly where we chip away and find ways to make lives not only better but just certainly more affordable. Mr. Speaker, you know, if you live in Yellowknife as an example, you're paying at least 30 cents per kilowatt. You know, you can say, well our tax burden is different than other places like Ontario. But when you're paying 10 or 12 cents a kilowatt, you know, there is a huge disparity in the sense of the challenges Northerners get through day to day. So our tax burden may not be the same but that said, our burden on getting through the day to day is certainly not comparable to anywhere else in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this touches the lives and families of everyday Northerners. So whether you live in Tsiigehtchic or you live in a Tu Nedhe riding, trying to put food on the table and you're always worrying about the shrinking dollar to reach that goal of feeding your family, taking care of them, or even simply buying birthday presents and, you know, kitchen table economics may not seem a lot or it may not be on the attention of this government, but the fact is it's on the attention and the eye of every one of our community members here working together.

Mr. Speaker, I hear whether you're in Inuvik that power bills are outrageous. I hear that whether you're in a Tlicho community that they have to make strong burdensome choices that families should not have to face by themselves. But there's also the hidden costs of the cost of living that we tend not to spend a lot of time on. You know, such as not being able to participate in curling or hockey, which we all know is certainly

a pride of most Northerners here, or being able to afford to buy skis for their kids so they can get out and do these types of things or, heck, engage in other types of social activities that mean so much.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living affects us more than just the power bill. It affects us as who we are and who we identify as people of the North. Mr. Speaker, I'll have questions for the Premier on this particular subject. Now, he'll have the idea of maybe or the excitement of passing it on to the Finance Minister, but my questions will be more about what type of general government policy he's going to extend to his Ministers to make sure that they are working as hard as they can on this burden to help support all Northerners on this crisis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Yellowknife Centre. Members' statements. Member from Yellowknife North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 113-20(1):  
ALCOHOL STRATEGY

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in March of 2023 the government released an alcohol strategy for the Northwest Territories with the goal to reduce alcohol-related harms and improve wellness for all NWT residents.

This is not just an addictions issue. Heavy drinking and binge drinking are common in this territory, and this impacts everything from people's finances, people's relationships, and safety that could be accidents while operating vehicles, boats, ATVs while under the influence, and there's also a link to acts of violence, including family and gender-based violence. Of course alcohol consumption also increases the risk of diseases, including several types of cancers as well as tuberculosis, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and liver disease. It can also cause birth defects. A 2022 report by the NWT chief coroner's office noted that suicide in the NWT, especially amongst males in their 20s, are often related to alcohol or drug use. Beyond that, alcohol is a huge cost burden. The NWT is the second highest in Canada for per person costs related to substance use, including costs to health care, justice, and lost productivity. The number of hospitalizations caused by alcohol in the NWT have been six times the Canadian average. So alcohol is often used as a coping mechanism as people experience intergenerational and ongoing trauma, and it's worth putting into perspective that systemic racism has led to Indigenous peoples having more interactions with the justice system when they do drink heavily simply because they may be less able

to hide it due to their living situation, such as overcrowded housing or homelessness or living in rental units. Indigenous peoples have also experienced discrimination within the health care system sometimes assumed to be intoxicated when they're actually in medical distress.

But the alcohol strategy tries to chart a path forward. It proposes 15 actions and builds upon the recommendations that came out of the Minister's forum from 2012 to 2013 on addiction and community wellness. The actions fall under communications, policy, prevention, public safety, and treatment. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to touch on a few of the actions that came out of the alcohol strategy. That includes supporting greater community control over liquor sales, prevention, including more education about substance use beginning at a younger age, more healthy recreational activities for youth, hiring more staff to support clinicians and patients, trying to navigate the health and mental health systems, and building more capacity in communities for harm reduction programs. So I'll have questions for the Premier later on today. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Yellowknife North. Members' statements. Member from Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 114-20(1):  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY  
PROMOTION RESOURCES

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Translation unavailable] Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about public health and safety resources for our residents produced by our government.

Mr. Speaker, in the past our government used to regularly produce and widely share high quality northern-based content in health and safety and education campaign to encourage positive healthy choices and keep residents informed through positive health promotion. Prior to being elected, there were numerous occasions of people coming to me in search of northern created materials they could use to access to educate themselves on certain health hazards for a general understanding of what resources are available to help them.

Mr. Speaker, there was one example last year where I called the government department on behalf of someone who was struggling who wanted some assistance to navigate their

situation. I asked if there was any northern-based content produced by the government that I could use to share with the individual. And to my surprise, the government -- a worker said to me the government doesn't share those resources anymore.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our government continue doing its part to safeguard the health and safety of our communities with positive health promotion and anti-smoking and drug campaigns, safety, sexual health resources, or even river and safety -- lake safety campaigns. It is vital that our government be proactive and carry out preventative measures by producing and promoting content that ensures our residents will be healthy and will make safe, informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, our government has lacked in this area in recent years, yet our communities continue to face many health and social issues such as alcohol and drug addiction, chronic disease like diabetes, cancer, the spread of sexual transmitted infections to name to a few.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as a pillar of our public health system, our government must continue to produce northern content and engage in positive health promotion across the NWT. I will have questions for the Minister. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from the Deh Cho. Members' statements. Member from Frame Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 115-20(1):  
2024 SNOWKINGS' WINTER FESTIVAL

**MR. MORSE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure to check out the snow castle down on Yellowknife Bay. And I'm very excited about this year's festival. I had fun riding the slides with some of my colleagues. Two of our Ministers were posting on social media about that the other day.

So every year the dedicated crew of passionate artisans bring magic to our northern winter by creating a northern work of art. This year will be the 29th edition of this amazing event that celebrates our northern winter creating a month-long arts festival which provides a venue to countless northern artists and invites kids of all ages to come play in the snow. The festival punches way above its weight in terms of the funding it brings in and the different benefits it brings to our community, Mr. Speaker. It's great for tourism. It's great for the arts. It's great for community spirit. It's a fun thing for kids to do. It brings a lot of hope and kind of -- it's something to look forward to at the end of a long

winter every year. So I know it's become a beloved event in the community.

So this year's design has been inspired by Spanish architect Anthony Gaudi, and I can say, having taken a little tour through it, it is absolutely stunning this year. It is a beautiful work of art. It's also a lot of fun. So it's kind of a combination of all those things. And it's really great.

The festival runs during the whole month of March. I highly recommend everyone get out to see it. Opening ceremony is this Saturday, March 4th. That will be open with a performance of the Yellowknife Dene Drummers and Norway dance troupe Nordting, and Dene spoken word artist Kiera-Dawn Kolson, among others. The international snow carving symposium runs from March 1st to 3rd with carvers coming from as far as Korea.

Mr. Speaker, thank you to contributions from our group of Yellowknife MLAs on March 8th, which is the first day of March break for students of Yellowknife, admission will be free for everyone. I highly recommend everyone get down to the castle and check it out on this fun day when it'll be free to attend. Everybody needs to embrace the magic of Snow King. Go down and try the slide. It's a lot of fun. And thank you to this festival for the many, many, many years of community spirit you've brought to Yellowknife. It's really wonderful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Range Lake. Members' statements.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 116-20(1):  
EULOGY FOR DARCY LAFFERTY

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Colleagues, Darcy Lafferty was born on August 12, 1968. Unfortunately, on November 19, 2023, we said goodbye to Darcy Lafferty who lost his battle with cancer. It was a battle that we were unaware of because he was always putting other people's needs first. In the 18th Assembly, I had the privilege of doing a Member statement about his willingness to help people, especially those on medical travel that needed a non-medical escort.

Colleagues, Darcy was always accommodating and ready to help, whether it was helping my constituent assistant carry things into the office, or countless trips volunteering as a non-medical escort. Some would say he found his calling after being a non-medical escort for his father. It was quickly recognized that Darcy was an invaluable asset to the medical system in the Deh Cho region. I can recall many days Darcy would come into our office to share a

coffee and tell us about his latest trip or the ones that were coming up. Listening to Darcy speak about these trips was amazing to say the least. Whether it was about his constant travel schedule or his ability to navigate the logistics of these many trips for his patients.

I remember one of those visits, where he spoke about two upcoming trip to Yellowknife and Edmonton for different people. He talked about having to come home to Fort Simpson, quickly wash his clothes, repack, and head off the next day with the other patient. Darcy would tell us that he always had a bag packed by the door and was ready should he be called upon to help someone needing assistance as a non-medical escort.

Darcy treated it like a job, always on time, prepared, and always willing to ensure the patient was calm and comfortable. He never expected anything in return. You can tell how much it made him happy to do what he was doing. There is not enough words or thanks that can account for all the time, dedication, and compassion Darcy shared with others during his time with us. When we think about Darcy and the impact he left on our life, it's an honour to say we had the opportunity to see and chat with Darcy on a regular basis. We have never met someone as self-sacrificing, unselfish, and kind as he was.

The family would like to thank the following: The Fort Simpson Health Centre, YK Stanton staff, LKFN, and many, many community and family members that were there for them during this difficult time. He will be sadly missed by us all.

Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. SPEAKER:** Folks, I'd like to recognize a number of people in the gallery. I had the opportunity meeting the Ontario interns this morning and then I had the privilege of going to lunch with them. They all agreed that I could call them Shane 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 so I don't get the names wrong but I'm going to try. And I apologize now. Razan Akiba, Mielna Basciano, Steffi Burgi, Evan Cameron, Bridget Carter-Whitney, Olivia Collver, Kaitlin Gallant, Astrid Krueger, Taylor Pizzirusso, Rhea Saini.

As well, I would like to recognize Denise Mckie, the executive director for the NWT Disabilities Council. Thank you.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member from Great Slave.

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize two constituents in the gallery. Ms. Denise Mckie, thank you for joining us. And Mr. Ollie Williams. It's a pleasure to have you both here.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to your Chambers. I hope you enjoy the proceedings. It's always nice to see people in the gallery.

Acknowledgements. Oral questions. Member from Range Lake.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 98-20(1): NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION FUNDING

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, MLAs met with NGOs in December of last year wherein we were presented with a letter, Common Priorities Presented to the 20th Legislative Assembly by Non-Government Organizations Collective Voices. I'll be tabling that letter today. I'm going to ask questions that they wanted asked on the floor to the Premier. Will the Premier provide core annual funding to NGOs linked to the timely release of funding to NGOs to prevent interruptions of service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Range Lake. Mr. Premier.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there are some NGOs that do receive core funding; however, obviously not all NGOs receive core funding. And to the Member's question, we won't be extending core funding to every single NGO in the territory. That being said, we are looking at the core services that are offered by the GNWT. And if an NGO is offering those core services, then we can look at core funding. So there is an opportunity to expand core funding in recognition of the fact that these NGOs are delivering core services of the government. Thank you.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Premier. Will the Premier ensure that operational funding to NGOs reflects a clear understanding of programs being delivered and the actual costs of doing business taking into account human resources, inflation, infrastructure, clientele, and northern costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to look at what is being offered, what is needed, and what funding we have available.

So it's a combination of those three things. It's not just what the NGO is offering and what services they're providing, it's also whether or not it is a priority for this Assembly and the government to fund those services and what exactly is being delivered. So there's more factors than the Member is putting into the question that we need to consider. Thank you.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier is right. We have limited resources. We need them to align. I think when -- that there's a bunch of NGOs who are doing this work and who are offering these things. So will the Premier commit to equitable communications so he can better understand those services and work with them directly on their terms using their expertise to understand what they do for Northerners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Communication -- bad communication is the cause of 80 percent of the problems. That's been my experience in this role or as an MLA over the past eight years. And so I'm always looking towards ways to improve communication, and I'll have that conversation with the departments on how we communicate with NGOs. Oftentimes it's a resourcing issue on our end. We just don't have the people to just spend the time having the conversations that need to be had. And so if that's the case, we need to figure out how to have those conversations differently. So yes, I am committed to improving the conversations and the communication between NGOs and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Premier. Final supplementary. Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's great news. I am pleased to hear that, and I'm sure our NGOs will be pleased to hear it as well.

Finally, reporting requirements are often quite onerous for NGOs. Will the Premier cut the red tape, allow easier reporting requirements, streamline the process so they can get to work providing services to our residents sooner and more effectively? Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm always looking to cut red tape. I know there have been improvements made in reporting for at least some of the contribution agreements that we have. But, again, we can always do more. And, again, it is a balancing act. These are public dollars, and we do need to account for those dollars and ensure that we're spending them in a way that this Assembly

agrees with and the public is happy with. So there's always going to be a need for some reporting requirements, but a lack of trust really slows things down. And so if we can strengthen that relationship, build the trust between the GNWT and the NGOs, then I'm sure that we can streamline those requirements and make life easier for everyone, for the government, for the NGOs, and for the residents who ultimately we are both serving. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Member from Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

QUESTION 99-20(1):  
INVESTING IN HOUSING IN TU NEDHE-  
WILIDEH COMMUNITIES

**MR. EDJERICON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the communities in my region need housing investments, and they need money from CIRNAC to go directly to the Indigenous governments in partnership with Housing NWT. Mr. Speaker, my questions to Minister Lucy Kuptana on housing.

Does the Minister agree that Indigenous governments have a greater role to play in the building and also in the homeownership repairs for their people in Tu Nedhe-Willideh riding? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Colleagues, please just titles, not names. Thank you. Minister of Housing NWT.

**HON. LUCY KUPTANA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I am happy to see the increasing role played by Indigenous governments across the Northwest Territories in building and maintaining homes for their members. Housing NWT has worked increasingly over the last several years to partner and collaborate with Indigenous governments on their housing priorities through the NWT Housing forum and bilateral agreements to maximize our collective impact on the housing crisis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. EDJERICON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Will the Minister agree to commit funding needed to help do the evaluation and the proposal cost to CIRNAC on every home in the community of my riding so we know at least where the money's going to be going so that we could develop a program so we could look at apprenticeship training and training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LUCY KUPTANA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Housing NWT performs unit condition ratings in every public housing unit to determine maintenance. The goal is to achieve a unit condition rating every couple of

years, so every two years. I understand that a number of the Indigenous governments had taken on the evaluation of private homes as part of their home repair programs. I cannot commit at this moment to an evaluation of every private home in the Member's riding, but I can commit to working with Indigenous governments to do this type of work. This could include sharing expertise and resources for Indigenous governments to conduct such an evaluation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. EDJERICON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Minister. And I'm happy to hear that she's willing to work with us.

Will the Minister also commit to advocating to the federal government to get these federal investments to the Indigenous governments to fix up housing in the communities on homeownership repairs once we start working together on this issue? Thank you.

**HON. LUCY KUPTANA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can commit to continuing to advocate for federal investments in housing, including funding directly to NWT Indigenous governments for their housing priorities. We've already seen some of the successes in the Northwest Territories, and we want that to continue. We expect that further detail of the federal government's urban role in northern Indigenous housing strategy, also known as URN, will soon be announced. That will provide for the investment of a further \$4 billion in housing investment across Canada for Indigenous housing priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Housing NWT. Member from Tu Nedhe-Willideh. Final supplementary.

**MR. EDJERICON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Minister. I'll be sending a letter to the Minister on my priorities for the Tu Nedhe-Willideh, and one of the four priorities of the GNWT is housing. And what I'll do, though, is I'm looking forward to put a letter together to the Minister and see how we could work together on this issue. So it's just a statement. There's no question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Okay, colleagues, to the questions I don't want concluding statements on it. So just, please, follow the process.

Oral questions. Member from Great Slave.

QUESTION 100-20(1):  
EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Folks living with chronic health issues and disabilities are often living within limited means. Can the

Minister of health say if extended health benefits for those with limited income can be expedited before September? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Great Slave. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the new EHB policy which expands the benefits coverage for residents with low income does not take in effect until September 1st, 2024 and so, unfortunately, this can't be expedited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How much does the Minister expect that the new policy will cost to initiate and implement in addition to year-over-year costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to estimate the cost because it depends on how much people use the service. Various factors will contribute to the costing, such as not all eligible residents accessing all benefit areas and the introduction of the cost sharing for those who can afford it. Overall, we anticipate that the ongoing incremental costs of providing the benefits to those who previously didn't have them will be offset by cost sharing component and the department's efforts in managing drip costs effectively. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Minister for that. I will follow up with her office for more detail on that.

Can the Minister speak to how much the previous EHB policy cost annually on average over the last decade? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that detail. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Final supplementary. Member from Great Slave.

**MS. REID:** Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll follow up with the Minister on that.

If folks who were previously covered under the specific condition list make too much money for full coverage under the new policy, what is the department's plan to assist them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the new policy, eligible residents will be required to contribute up to 4 percent of their net income for their

prescription drugs, and the remainder will be covered. For medical supplies and equipment, there will be a cost sharing agreement with a maximum limit of \$1,500 per year based on their income. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from Sahtu.

QUESTION 101-20(1):  
GREAT BEAR RIVER BRIDGE

**MR. McNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on my statement here earlier, my question to the Minister of Infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, critical to project execution is permitting. This Great Bear River Bridge is the same design, same location as it was in 2006 when it was applied for and permitted.

My first question to the Minister, has the Department of Infrastructure completed the necessary updated studies to accompany the Great Bear River Bridge application resubmission? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from the Sahtu. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to answer the question. Some of the information from back in 2006 was able to be utilized for these -- the current submissions but not all, and we really can't afford to have any lack of attention on this. We can't be in a situation where we're wanting to have to go back again and again. So at this point, yes, necessary studies are complete. Infrastructure is in the process of finalizing the regulatory submission. The developer's report has already been submitted, and that process is currently available on the board's website and I would certainly encourage people to have a look at it, to participate in the public engagement that's going to be happening this year. Thank you

**MR. McNEELY:** Mr. Speaker, my second question to the Minister is when will the developer or the Department of Infrastructure issue the bridge application to the Sahtu Land and Water Board? Thank you.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So again, Mr. Speaker, there is already the process underway with the DAR that's happening but with respect to specifically the Sahtu Land and Water Board and that application, we're anticipating being ready for the spring or summer of this year. But, Mr. Speaker, we're also re-engaging and reinvigorating the memorandum of understanding with the Sahtu Secretariat to

have more ongoing conversations about this project as a whole and the Mackenzie Valley Highway project as a whole to make sure that there's really -- that there's no delays this time and that we are all working together towards the same outcomes and same goals. Thank you.

**MR. McNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll share some information there with the Minister that might help expedite the submission process. The DAR report is separate from the actual bridge application. The bridge application, as I said submitted and approved in 2006, did not accompany a DAR report. The DAR report is for the Mackenzie Valley Highway which triggers the EA and so the application itself for the bridge would be a standalone. It's more of a I want to help the department suggestion -- a statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member. Please keep your statements and commitments -- stick to the question, please and thank you.

Oral questions. Member from the Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 102-20(1):  
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MEDICAL  
TRAVEL CLIENTS

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is for Health and Social Services. I know that the Minister of today has inherited the concern from the previous government, but will the Minister commit to making things right and look at alternative accommodations for future patients coming to Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Member from Mackenzie Delta. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the occupancy at the boarding home here has increased about 50 percent since April 2023. Recently an increased demand on medical travel related to dental is a huge factor. And the Health and Social Services will continue to monitor the increased demand for the boarding home services alongside the lack of commercial capacity of hotel accommodations in Yellowknife and work with our current partner, Keskorie, on options to minimize the accommodation issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the department is currently bound by a contract. Can the Minister tell me and the rest of the Northwest Territories when is this

contract up with the Quality Inn? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Mr. Speaker, the contract for medical boarding in Yellowknife is currently with the Det'on Cho Corporation, and it's not with any local hotels. It is -- and the contract for them expires in 2024. But part to have that agreement Keskorie is tasked with is contracting alternative commercial accommodations, including hotels for guests when the demand exceeds capacity at the boarding home. And so they -- like, they collaborate with all of the local hotels to try and find any rooms for patients coming in for medical. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister know if there's any clauses within the contract due to health violations that can terminate the existing contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the contract does have standards for client safety and cleanliness, and they are monitored and discussed with the contractor regularly if there is an issue. Regarding the cleanliness concern, the NTHSSA has followed up with Keskorie Boarding Home, which they contract the hotels and with any complaints that they have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services. Final supplementary. Member from Mackenzie Delta.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has there been any interest from Indigenous governments to build a boarding home to accommodate future patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there is interest from both private companies and Indigenous governments to develop plans to meet the NWT's medical travel boarding home needs. We hope for a successful request for proposal for the new Yellowknife-based boarding home contract in the coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 103-20(1):  
ALCOHOL STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier today. So the alcohol strategy includes actions that involve various departments, so not just Health and



Social Services but, for example, Department of Finance and the liquor commission have actions around policy and communications on alcohol sales and pricing. The Department of Infrastructure and Justice around issues around drunk driving and mechanisms to combat that. So will the government take a whole-of-government approach to implementing the alcohol strategy, or will this fall under one department to lead? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Yellowknife North. Mr. Premier.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All-of-government approach. Thank you.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So has this government costed out the actions that were listed in the work plan of the alcohol strategy?

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to answer all of the government questions but the alcohol strategy does lie with the Department of Health and Social Services, and so the Minister of Health and Social Services would be best positioned to respond to this question. So I'd like to defer it to her. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That would be a second set of questions if it started with you and then transferring to the other Minister.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must be confused on the rules; I thought I could defer the question at any time. Okay, thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister from Health and Social Services to her question.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a level of that, the information the Member is question as the pricing or any of that. I'll have to discuss that with the department and get back to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member. Member from Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So certainly I wasn't expecting cost to come out today; I was just asking whether or not the government has costed the actions. But if all to that, is there an intention to put money starting in the 2024-2025 budget to implement some of these actions in the alcohol strategy?

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of different things within the next budget that will be attributing to some of the actions within the

alcohol strategy. But to break it down to further detail, I'll have to get back to the Member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Final supplementary. Member from Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the alcohol strategy aims to have all actions completed by March 31st, 2028. Is this government going to strive to create a plan that will allow all actions to be completed by March 31st, 2028? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within the action and, you know, if this is something that we will all decide, you know, in this House, operations of and breaking these different areas down. We have to remember that it's not only government that will be providing these services. So, additionally, it's important to remember that there are Indigenous governments and organizations who offer a variety of addiction-focused services and are developing this capacity as well. So, you know, I talked about last week about the Weaving Our Wisdom conference gathering that was here. That is a huge component of addictions and, you know, and will -- may target a lot of those areas within the alcohol strategy but it's working in partnership with, you know, NGOs, with Indigenous governments, and this government. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 104-20(1):  
ADDRESSING COST OF LIVING AND COST  
OF GOVERNMENT

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions will be going to the Premier about the culture of Cabinet, not specific to any one department because this crosses multiple departments. So specifically to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, my question is about cost of living and what type of direction is he providing to the Ministers at the Cabinet table to find ways to do business either more efficient or smarter, I guess could be the same way of looking at it, but what direction is he providing his Cabinet colleagues to provide the efficiency culture at the Cabinet table when it comes to cost of living? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Yellowknife Centre. Mr. Premier.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So when we talk about efficiencies, that is one

of the things that I wanted to focus on coming into this role, ensuring that we are doing what we need to do as a government, not doing things that we don't need to be doing. So ensuring that we spend every dollar, every public dollar, in the best possible way which would allow us to support residents where they need it the most. And so by saving money on unnecessary expenditures, we can then go to addressing issues like the cost of living. Of course, we've been working as a Cabinet on our fiscal sustainability strategy, and that is to ensure that we are fiscally sustainable and can best support residents. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and I welcome that answer because that now leads -- or I should say dovetails into the next one is part of that efficiency in revisiting the work that they do and examining the overall cost of government, we also have to think about the burden on the taxpayer hence the question is are they looking at eliminating the fees of particular services where it costs more to provide the service than it actually does in the sense of the process of what the fee is worth? Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So we are -- you know, we're a new Assembly. We just released the fiscal strategy. We just set our priorities as an Assembly. And we are now working on the mandate. And so we are looking at all of those -- all of the fees that we charge, services for which we don't charge fees where fees are charged in other jurisdictions. So everything is currently on the table. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to drill down too deep because, of course, the Premier did say it's early, but is the Premier open to some examples? And the simple examples I would provide in a simple statement would be is there is costs to running the driver's license renewal, the license plate renewal. Is the Premier -- I'm giving him time. Is the Premier able to look at those services and examine them and maybe make them free given the consideration that it probably costs more to run those services than we actually charge for them. Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm happy to look into that. If we are doing something and it's costing us more than it's worth, then we need to look at why we are spending that much money. Oftentimes there are practical reasons why we have to do something, even if it does cost us more than it's worth, or there could be legal requirements. But I'm happy to look at any fees that we're charging and determine whether or not they are appropriate for that service. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Final supplementary. Member from Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A pragmatic and practical answer was exactly what I was looking for. Mr. Speaker, how could the Premier report this information back in the context of what they're looking at, how they're developing it, and how are they considering it so the public could hear how the government is examining how it's doing business and how it could make it more affordable for Northerners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And so once we are done this sitting, we are going to go right into developing a mandate which will then inform the upcoming budget and so it's through that process that Members will see what is being considered. It is where we will get that input back from Members. I won't speak too much to the budgeting process. That is, of course, the Minister of Finance's department, but I know that she is keen on getting feedback as well from the Members and from the public. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Member from Monfwi.

QUESTION 105-20(1):  
MUNICIPAL FUNDING GAP

**MRS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

In the 19th Assembly, the GNWT provided an additional \$5 million in funding for communities but we know, Mr. Speaker, it has not closed the municipal funding gap. Can the Minister provide the total value of the municipal funding gap for NWT communities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Monfwi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. VINCE MCKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Municipal and Community Affairs distributes approximately \$120 million through the community government funding policies throughout all our municipalities and our communities. MACA is always willing to work to try to advocate for more funding to close off these gaps. Thank you.

**MRS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Thank you for that information. We have 33 communities. Can the Minister commit to tracking the value of the municipal funding gap publicly? Thank you.

**HON. VINCE McKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we already do that, but I will commit to doing that. Thank you.

**MRS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Can the Minister explain what is known about the funding gap for community operations and maintenance? Thank you.

**HON. VINCE McKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funds that are distributed throughout all the communities are just like our funds. We get those set funds, and we try to stretch them out as much as we can. What I would do is encourage local community governments to make hard decisions like us also and try to find a way to stretch out those community dollars. At the end of the day, we're trying to prioritize what our priorities are in spending those funds as I would think communities would also do and what their goals are within their communities and how they want to strategically spend those funds that they receive. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Final supplementary. Member from Monfwi.

**MRS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Okay, I want to ask the last one. What supports are in place to ensure community workers are provided competitive salaries, especially for the residents who want to live and work in their home communities? The mine is not an option anymore because they will be closing in the near future. Thank you.

**HON. VINCE McKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I was saying, the funds are distributed as per the community government funding policy. Once those funds are received by the community governments, it's up to them to operate those funds and how they pay their employees would be up to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Oral questions. Member from Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 106-20(1):  
PHARMACISTS' SCOPE OF PRACTICE

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions around the pharmacists' scope of work here in the Northwest Territories. And right now as I understand it, pharmacists in the Northwest Territories cannot prescribe drugs, cannot prescribe vaccines -- sorry, give vaccines that is, or other types of shots. So, Mr. Speaker, what is the Minister of health in the context of familiarity aware of the scope of practice and

what is she able to address moving forward in this Assembly? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Yellowknife Centre. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a level of a detail of what the pharmacists' scope of practice is. You know, I know that we are -- it is a piece of legislation that is on our list for the 20th Assembly to look at, is that, so as to the details I don't have that right now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I'm correct when I say I know there's pharmacists in Inuvik, obviously Yellowknife, I believe in Hay River, I believe in Fort Smith, and maybe a couple other places but I couldn't guarantee you. But the point is there's pharmacists that could help support and buttress the health care system. Would the Minister be willing to ensure that the scope of practice for pharmacists is expanded to take care of those types of services I highlighted? Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, you know, to the Member, I agree, and that is why I think it's so important that this piece of legislation is also something that we do review, and I believe that when I speak about the right people doing the right thing, and I think the pharmacies have a role to play in our health care system, and so I do believe that it is very important that they are working at their scope of practice too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I look at the pharmacists' scope of practice across Canada, I see a lot of nos in the NWT category in comparison to others. So could the Minister reiterate her answer a little more clearer in a manner of sense whereas will she ensure that those issues I highlighted - drugs, vaccines, and further scope of practice considerations - be included in the upcoming act review? Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** As I stated in my -- I have committed. I will commit to having those things. There are -- you know, there are -- like the Member said, the pharmacists that are in the regional centres and the capital and having to collaborate and provide services, you know, to also to the health centres, so it is very important, and I know that we are looking at being able to provide that service and to be able to have a platform so that way when you are accessing services, which we all do in the territory, as I do when I'm here, I need to make

sure that when I'm accessing a pharmacy in Yellowknife or in Inuvik or in Hay River that we're all talking. So those are things that need to be also put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Final supplementary. Member from Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the only area of concern in my last question is making sure that our archaic legislation will be comparable to other places. We don't have to be Alberta or Ontario but, that said, we need to be innovative and we have to create that innovation. Mr. Speaker, that's the question. Is the Minister able to work with Members and the pharmacy community to ensure we have innovation at the moment the act is open because it may be a decade before it's revisited? Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do agree in that, you know, once the legislation, you know, is completed and that is part of the legislation, is being able to work with the Regular Members and being able to hear from the residents of the Northwest Territories, and that includes all the pharmacists in the Northwest Territories. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from the Deh Cho.

QUESTION 107-20(1):  
HEALTH AND SAFETY PROMOTIONAL  
MATERIALS

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are to my Member's statement. I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I spoke about health promotion and its importance on our residents to be encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle. Can the Minister of health confirm whether all 33 communities across the NWT have hard copies of health promotional materials that are readily available for people? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Member from the Deh Cho. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Member. The Department of Health and Social Services has the department of health promotion and communication units are constantly creating and updating northern health promotion education material online and physically across the Northwest Territories. So if the Member has

certain material that she is referring to or communities that -- you know, that are unable to access this information, I would like to work with the Member to make sure that her communities or any communities have this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm if there are ways where previously successful modes of health promotion, like posters or pamphlets, will be utilized in 2024 and within the 20th Assembly? Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that health promotion continuously -- you know, they have health promotion on a lot of different areas. They do have posters. They do have websites. They have online material. I know they do social media campaigns. So if there's specific things that we're not targeting, like I'd like to hear from the Member. And I'll just leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm whether the department considers that GNWT's efforts of health promotion have been effective and produce positive results for our residents? Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that data but what I do know is that, you know, people that work in health promotion in the different regions, they have the resources that they -- you know, that they will use to provide education. Some communities have community health reps that have this education. Some, the information is at the health centres. In the regional centres, we have public health, public health units that work in this area. But also the Indigenous governments do a lot of their own, like in different areas of health promotion. They have their own resources that they also provide. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Final supplementary. Member from the Deh Cho.

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Resources that I was looking for was the long-term effects of drug use, specifically hard drugs that are in our communities; long-term effects of alcohol use just so people are informed. Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Member for that. And I will get back to the department to see what types of information that they have, especially related to those. Hard drugs and illicit drugs is something that is -- you know, we've all

said it in this House that it's going through our communities, and people are requesting resources. So that is something I can commit to making sure that we have stuff for -- especially for the small communities. But not just small communities. For everyone. And there are a lot of alcohol -- the impacts of alcohol resources. So I will reach out -- like, I will have the department look into it and reach out to the people that provide the services, especially in the small communities, regional centres, and here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 108-20(1):  
ADDICTIONS AND WITHDRAWAL  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMING

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So my question now is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. So in terms of what we often refer to as detox, local doctors have told me that right now we do a patchwork job of offering inpatient withdrawal management at Stanton but only to those with significant medical risks, which is actually very few of the patients who would actually benefit from a withdrawal management program.

Has the Department of Health and Social Services examined what resources would be needed for us to offer a comprehensive withdrawal management and addictions program for all those patients who need it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Member from Yellowknife North. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this question, you know, in regards to the announcement that we made last week, is a great question to be able to answer that patchwork within the Northwest Territories because, you know, I think we've been managing what we can up until, you know, now, and now we're seeing more and more different types of drugs and, you know, we've had the alcohol detox. And, yes, they have been just managed case by case up until now but with the new recent funding, there is -- this is contributing to the creation of a territorial substance use medicine team that includes inpatient and community care components to enhance coordination and the delivery of service for residents seeking help for substance use, including alcohol withdrawal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I'm encouraged that this is on the radar and we're

heading this direction. My question is whether the Minister or the staff at Health and Social Services have considered incorporating some aspects of the best practice models in comprehensive withdrawal management programs, such as the model based out of Sudbury or Edmonton, the addiction recovery community health program there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't speak to what they've looked at and what the department has reviewed and to the two that the Member has mentioned. But what I can do is the team that is working on the detox, on the territorial substance use medicine team, is looking at a territorial -- what will fit best in the Northwest Territories. So I think we've said it here many, many times that we are an extraordinary territory and we have -- we reach very -- we have very long arms in the territory, and so we need a program that's going to fit the needs of the Northwest Territories and be able to support small communities, regional centres, and Yellowknife, and the residents that need the service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from Range Lake.

QUESTION 109-20(1):  
EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to pick up extended health benefits and the changes that have recently been put into place. There's a significant amount of concern amongst my constituents that there are folks that are going to be left out by this. So currently, the discussion paper mentioned there are around 2,200 people who are not on third-party insurance. How many people are going to be affected once the changes are fully put in place? How many people are going to be taken off supplementary health benefits? Thank you -- or extended health.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Range Lake. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite clear on what the Member is asking. I know in the last -- from my understanding with the extended health benefits that there was part of it that they had to go and get third party. That is not a requirement in the new extended health benefits. So there won't be people taken off. If there's an income threshold, that's the only thing that's going to be measurable so that they

pay like for pharmacy -- or prescription drugs up to 4 percent of their prescription drugs of their net income. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well those who are over the income threshold also have to pay full vision and dental care as well, so how many of those people are there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that detail right now. I don't -- you know, I don't believe -- and when I look at the threshold, you know, there will be many circumstances where a lot of the people may have -- you know, might be affected but I don't -- I don't have that level of detail with me right now, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I forgive this Minister; I'm not looking for an exact number or guess. I'm looking for more of a general idea. Are we talking about thousands of people? Hundreds of people? Dozens of people? How many is this going to affect? Because at the end of the day, many middle class income earners still suffer from disabilities that aren't properly captured by third-party insurance and they're going to have to pay more out of pocket. So are we talking about a thousand people? 2,000 people? Just a general idea of how many people this change is going to impact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will get back to the Member on that information. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Member from Range Lake. Final supplementary.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you to the Minister. Last but not least, what is the income threshold? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will have to get back to the Member on that as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 110-20(1):  
REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY  
GOVERNANCE

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So just to further put the hot seat under the Minister of health, I have another separate question.

So last fall, the 19th Assembly Standing Committee on Government Operations tabled a

report on a review of the 2021-2022 Public Accounts, and one of the things they recommended was that Health and Social Services commission a review and evaluation of governance at the NTHSSA since amalgamation. Is this -- there were also some details given as to what the review should include. Does the current Minister plan to implement this recommendation for an independent review and evaluation of NTHSSA governance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Member from Yellowknife North. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in the House last week that we did do an independent review. That review is right now -- and I committed in this House to sharing that review as soon as I have the final report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So can the Minister confirm -- so the recommendation was that the review should be led by an independent body such as the internal audit bureau or an external audit group. Can the Minister confirm who completed the review or what was the level of independence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail on the report. I know that the report was completed. I know that we're waiting -- we were waiting on the final report and that that's about as much information as I have on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do we have an estimated timeline of when either this government would see that report or Members on this side of the House be seeing that report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a timeline as of yet. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member from Yellowknife North. Final supplementary.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a plan to release this report or a portion of it publicly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my intentions is to have the report, you know, and then there will -- my understanding there's recommendations in there. We want to have a response for all those recommendations, and so I would like to release the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 111-20(1):

„ PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES TO NUNAVUT CLIENTS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All right, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And colleagues. Of course they have to put up with me too. Thank you. But no thanks to the government.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services because we want to give her a full day, and we want her to earn her money today. So often we hear about the stress to the health care system and, quite respectfully that is, we often assume it's the nurses and whatnot, and they are stressed and overworked; I wouldn't want to downplay that in any way, Mr. Speaker. That said, we often in that statement forget that there are many other people who support the system, such as the audiologists, the speech, the physio, the occupation, and the rehabilitation centre. And it just doesn't -- or rehabilitation folks. And it just doesn't end there, Mr. Speaker.

My question specifically to the Minister of Health and Social Services is can she explain to the House what services we provide in those types of categories to Nunavut? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Yellowknife Centre. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you to the Member. And, you know, that level of detail, I don't have that here on the floor in this House. So I will commit to getting back to the Member on that level of detail as to what services we provide to Nunavut. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe for the record, is the Minister aware that we provide those types of services to Nunavut and if so, can she give some examples of what she's aware of? Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know we do provide -- we since -- like, especially here in Yellowknife, we do have the boarding home that does service a portion of Nunavut but as to what services we provide, I don't have that detail here in the House. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is aware that we do provide services, is she aware of how we backfill the non-served patients in the Northwest Territories while our experts are being sent elsewhere? Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we would not provide services to someone and send our own residents somewhere else. So what services that we would provide to anyone living in the Northwest Territories would be services that we would provide to anyone living in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services. Final supplementary. Member from Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, where I'm driving part of this is about the cost, and if we send our audiologists, by way of an example, to Nunavut, we have people not being served here in the Northwest Territories so that leads to my question, Mr. Speaker; is there any cost benefit analysis taken into consideration when we serve Nunavut and we send our experts there but we create a backlog of services where Northerners aren't being serviced, whether they're in Inuvik, whether they're in Simpson, or Tsiigehtchic, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**HON. LESA SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Member for a lot of these questions because I don't go that far down into operations when -- you know, with all of this. But I do know that, you know, if -- I don't believe we're sending any audiologists to Nunavut but I can confirm with the department and get back to the Member on that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services. Oral questions. Member from Monfwi.

QUESTION 112-20(1):  
MUNICIPAL FUNDING GAP

**MRS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just asked Minister a question about community funding gap, and he did say that \$120 million for 33 communities. \$120 million, we all know it's not enough to close the gap or anything for our community operations. So I just want to ask the Minister can the Minister explain how MACA calculates the funding -- or calculate the funding allocations to each communities because we know if it's based on per capita, small communities are at disadvantage.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Member from Monfwi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. VINCE MCKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a lot of detail that the department holds, and I'm willing to get that information for the Member. Thank you.

**MRS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How does the Minister know whether MACA funding for communities are adequate to provide essential and basic services?

**HON. VINCE MCKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very good question. At the end of the day, the formula funding that they use is used to send the funds to all the communities based on their level of service, and would have to get back to the Member on the assessments for the needs of the communities and whether or not the funding is adequate or not. Thank you.

**MRS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you. If funding was allocated based on needs, it's going to be more advantage for the small communities; we know that. So does the Minister know how much additional funding is needed to address the funding gap in NWT communities?

**HON. VINCE MCKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I do not have that answer, and I'll have to get back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Folks, our time for oral questions is up. Oral questions. Written questions. Colleagues, thank you. Return to written questions. Replies to the Commissioner's address. Petitions. Reports on committees on the review of bills. Reports of standing and special committees. Tabling of documents. Minister of Justice.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-20(1):  
PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY FOR BILL 2:  
MISSING PERSONS ACT

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-20(1):  
STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY FOR BILL  
2: MISSING PERSONS ACT

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents: Plain Language Summary for Bill 2: Missing Persons Act; and, a Statement of Consistency for Bill 2: Missing Persons Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Justice. Tabling of documents. Minister of Status of Women.

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-20(1):  
STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 2022-2023  
ANNUAL REPORT

**HON. LUCY KUPTANA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories 2022-2023 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Status of Women. Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation.

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-20(1):  
WORKERS' ADVISOR OFFICE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND  
NUNAVUT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-20(1):  
WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
AND NUNAVUT 2024 CORPORATE PLAN

**HON. VINCE MCKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents: Workers' Advisor Office Northwest Territories and Nunavut 2023 Annual Report; and, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Northwest Territories and Nunavut 2024 Corporate Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of safety and compensation. Tabling of documents. Member from Range Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-20(1):  
COMMON PRIORITIES PRESENTED TO  
THE 20<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY  
NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS  
(NGOS) COLLECTIVE VOICES

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document entitled Common Priorities Presented to the 20th Legislative Assembly by Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) Collective Voices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from Range Lake. Notices of motion. Member for the Deh Cho.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 20-20(1):  
AFFIRMING HOUSING AS A HUMAN RIGHT

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 28th, 2024, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Member for Range Lake, that the Northwest Territories Northwest Legislative Assembly acknowledge and affirm housing as a fundamental human right;

And further, that the implementation of housing as a fundamental human right within the laws of



Northwest Territories and policies of the Government of the Northwest Territories be referred to Standing Committee on Social Development for further study.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from the Deh Cho. Notices of motion. Member from the Deh Cho.

MOTION 21-20(1):  
TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS HOUSING  
AS A HUMAN RIGHT

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Member from Range Lake, that the the Government of the Northwest Territories acknowledge housing as a human right by amending the Housing Northwest Territories Act to enshrine the right to housing in legislation;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish a Northwest Territories housing forum in legislation to provide recommendations and advice to the Minister;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories leverage the Northwest Territories housing forum to improve access to federal funding and implement culturally-appropriate housing solutions in collaboration with Indigenous governments;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories collaborate with the Northwest Territories housing forum to bring homes out of core need within the earliest timeframe;

And furthermore, that the Government establish a territorial housing advocate in legislation to review and evaluate the outcomes of the Housing Northwest Territories Act;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member from the Deh Cho. Notices of motion. Motions. Notices of motion for the first reading of bills. First reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

## First Reading of Bills

BILL 4:  
INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES) 2024-2025

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to present to the House Bill 4, Interim Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2024-2025, to be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister of Finance. Pursuant to Rule 8.2(3), Bill 4 is deemed to have had first reading and is ready for second reading. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

## Second Reading of Bills

BILL 2:  
MISSING PERSONS ACT,  
CARRIED

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 2, Missing Persons Act, be read for the second time.

The proposed Missing Persons Act will enhance the RCMP's ability to investigate missing persons cases and will allow them to move more quickly with these investigations.

The bill also reflects the commitment made by the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop missing persons legislation as set out in the government's response to the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Bill 2 is ready for second reading. All those in favour? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried. Bill 2 has been read a second time, and it's referred to a standing committee of the Assembly for further consideration.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

BILL 4:  
INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES) 2024-2025,  
CARRIED

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member

for Hay River South, that Bill 4, Interim Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2024-2025, be read for the second time.

This bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make interim appropriations for operations expenditures for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** (audio) All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion has passed. Bill 4 has been read for a second time.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters; Minister's Statement 4-20(1), Minister's Statement 5-20(1), Minister's Statement 17-20(1), Tabled Document 28-20(1), Tabled Document 29-20(1), with the Member from Tu Nedhe-Willideh in the chair.

### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Call committee to order. I now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? With the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

**MR. RODGERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the committee wishes to deal with Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, and time permitted, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, committee. Your committee will proceed with the first item. Thank you. And we'll take a short recess and resume in 20 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. We're going to start up. Do we have quorum? We do have quorum? Okay. Order.

Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 28-20(1), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024. Does the Minister of Finance have any opening remarks? Yes, Member for Yellowknife South.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am happy to present Tabled Document 28-20(1), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024. This document proposes a total decrease of \$8.5 million, comprised of the following items:

- A decrease \$18.5 million for infrastructure contribution funding to reflect changes in the timing of planned expenditures for the Fort Providence-Kakisa Transmission Line and the Fort Simpson Liquefied Natural Gas Project;
- \$1.3 million to provide funding for the Canada North Fibre Loop Project. This amount is partially offset by revenues received from the Government of the Yukon;
- \$225,000 to provide funding for the implementation of a new database to support the professional licensing office. The net impact on government is zero as these expenditures are fully offset by revenues from the Medical Council of Canada;
- A decrease \$17.7 million for infrastructure expenditures funding to reflect changes in the timing of planned expenditures for the Tulita Health and Social Services Centre, the Yellowknife Wellness and Recovery Centre, and Hay River Long-Term Care Facility;
- A decrease \$1.4 million for infrastructure expenditures funding to reflect changes in the timing of planned expenditures for the Mineral Administration and Registry System;
- \$200,000 to provide funding for the purchase of software to support geological analysis of carbon sequestration;
- A decrease \$11.2 million for infrastructure expenditures funding to reflect changes in the timing of planned expenditures for the Redknife River Bridge Project, fuel services division fuel storage capacity, and the Mike Zubko Air Terminal Building; and,
- An increase of \$38.6 million for infrastructure expenditures funding to reflect changes in the timing of planned expenditures for the Inuvik Runway Extension Project and the

Inuvik airport surface structure adaptations for climate change.

That concludes opening remarks, Mr. Chair. Happy to answer questions from committee.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, Minister Wawzonek. Does the Minister of Finance wish to bring any witnesses forward? Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-arms, would you please escort the witness into the Chamber. Thank you.

Would the Minister please introduce your witnesses, please.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, on my left is deputy minister Bill MacKay, and on my right is the deputy secretary to the financial management board Terence Courtoreille.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I will open the floor for general comments, and I'll give you ten minutes for each Member to speak. Is there general comments from Members? Okay, don't see no further general comments, does the committee agree to proceed to detail contained in the tabled documents?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, thank you. Committee, we will begin on page 5 with the Department of Infrastructure. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Infrastructure, operation expenditures, energy and strategic initiatives, not previously authorized, negative \$18,500,000. Does the committee agree? Sorry, any Members, general comments? Okay, I got Member from Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Are we on page 5? Okay, I do have questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** I'll go to the -- for general comments, Member of Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I have a number of questions based on page 5 around delays to the Fort Providence-Kakisa Transmission Line.

So this project was announced back in 2021, and at that time it was valued at \$60 million with \$45 million of that coming from the federal government and construction was expected to start in 2023 however it's been pushed back. In

2022, it was expected completion by 2024-2025. So as of last fall, the GNWT's regulatory filing stated that this project was expected to be operational by 2026. I'm wondering if the Minister can confirm whether that timeline is still realistic given that the money is still being pushed forward for this project?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we did experience some delays in the project but at this point I can say that we are looking to -- at this point, in 2024-2025, we will be expected to begin the process of ordering some of the supplies required, for example the poles needed. I understand that the nature of the transmission poles is such that even ordering that can be a fairly significant undertaking. But with that ordered in the coming fiscal year, then construction activities would get going within 2025 calendar year and, as such, commissioning could be then 2026 with operations by 2027.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go for general comments, Member of Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you. And so is there an updated estimate for the total cost of this project and have costs risen significantly based on the delays?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I do expect that there has been some increase on the total cost of the project. I can't speak to the final sum right now but that is work that is underway at this moment, and I will certainly endeavour to give an update to the House once I have that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Member of Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you. And so the reasons that have caused the project to be delayed thus far, are there concerns that it will cause the project to continue to be delayed?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the story behind the delays here is one that is not dissimilar to what was occurred for some of the other projects. COVID initially, and then followed not far behind with

floods and a significant fire season. That has impacted the ability of the department in order to be able to do the much-required engagement process with communities and with Indigenous governments in the region and, as a result of that, that delayed the planning for the permitting process. In order to obviously go through the permitting process, that level of community engagement is an expected part of that. We do now, however, have the land use permit. That was issued in December of 2023, so that is what gives me the confidence to say that this is now moving forward and won't experience the same delays. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, Minister Wawzonek. Member of Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** That's all. Thank you very much for that explanation.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Any further general comments? I'll go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the witnesses provide an update on the Fort Simpson Liquefied Natural Gas Project? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, let me see what I have on that one here.

Actually, Mr. Chair, let me turn that to the deputy minister and see if he has it coming up ahead of me. Thank you.

**MR. BILL MacKAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have that information handy here, Minister. Maybe Mr. Courtoreille has some information.

**MR. TERENCE COURTOREILLE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have the detailed information either, but what I can say is what's being proposed in this supplementary request is to re-cash flow \$500,000 for this project to a future year to better match those project schedules. I know the department was doing some work at the community level to determine the best timing for that project in relation to potentially moving the larger diesel plant. That was a conversation that came to light after the Fort Simpson flood two years ago, and I think the department is still working through that conversation with NTPC. Thank you, sir.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, Mr. Courtoreille. Let me go to the Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. What is the total amount for this project -- total budgeting amount for the entire project? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Go to the Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, if, in fact, the project does have -- does proceed in the near future, we'll have to get a final estimate. I think there was an estimate at one time in and around \$20 million but of course given that they're now having to look at moving the site and changing sites, that will no doubt require an additional examination of the new site with new studies to consider about the geology and the structure, etcetera. So yes, the relocation aspect is what has caused a delay and is likely to change the total estimate. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I look to Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So this money -- so the 500K -- \$500,000, this is just the planning stage, or this is money for planning? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, Mr. Chair, that would have been for planning only. We did have some initial funds committed from the Government of Canada with respect to this LNG plant, but that as part of the ICIP envelope is being looked at for where money can be put to best support projects that are more advanced and projects that were at planning stages will be looking for new supports once they're ready to proceed. This project is a good example of that in that, again, after the flood, it was very clear that the location needed to be reconsidered. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, Minister Wawzonek. I'm going to go to Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. So next year we should have some clarity on whether or not that project is proceeding or at least the conclusion of the planning stage or the intention? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to the Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would expect so. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to the Member of Range Lake.

Go to the Member from the Sahtu.

**MR. McNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is on page number 7 to the Minister on health and social programs, the Tulita Health Centre. And it says here to reduce appropriations in 2023-2024 of \$8 million. Could the Minister explain that amount? Is it because the government has purchased materials from the project that was delivered to the site? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm just going to remind the Member that we're still working on Infrastructure. And did you have a question on the page 5 for now?

**MR. McNEELY:** Page 5? So I'll wait until 7.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Is there any further comments, general comments from Members? Okay, don't see none.

Okay, next one we'll go into the Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Infrastructure, operational expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$18,500,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Committee, we'll now consider the Department of Finance on page 6. Is there any comments? I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, can the Minister just --

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Before we do that, I'm going to go to Member of Range Lake. I was just going to continue on here. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Finance, capital investment expenditure, management board secretariat, not previously authorized \$1,253,000. Does the committee agree? Okay, now I'll go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry for jumping the gun. Mr. Chair, I'm wondering if the witnesses can provide an overview of what the Canada North Fibre Loop Project is. I'm assuming it's related to the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link; I'm just not familiar with it. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Loop -- or the Canada North Fibre Loop

is related in that this project is coming up on the Yukon side along the Dempster roughly and will link into the Mackenzie Valley Fibre that has -- comes up obviously through the Mackenzie Valley, and it will provide redundancy for the Northwest Territories and Yukon in that when the two come together then there's -- well, again, it makes a redundant loop between the two. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, the additional \$410,000 required to -- oh, sorry, no -- yes, sorry, that's right -- required to update the equipment to service the Mackenzie Valley -- sorry, let me rephrase that.

Why is this not being funded from within the department -- the department's own resources? Like, why is it coming to us as a supplemental appropriation? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. We'll go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I mean, I suppose with any other project there's -- some can be funded from within but it can't always be funded from within. Some of this is being offset by revenues from the Yukon government. It was in agreement that was signed with them to support the fact that this is an agreement that provides them a benefit of having a redundant link as well. And I mean, I think that's probably that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. So I think I understand my notes here. So what is the reason why we need this addition? Like, why there's -- why there has been cost overruns to the project that require this appropriation? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, I think perhaps I'm in a better place to answer the question now too.

There needs to be an update to the equipment on our side. So when the fibre loop that's coming in from the Yukon's side connects into our fibre, we'll need our systems to be brought up to speed in terms of -- I mean, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link -- or loop was now -- line, sorry, was built some years ago. This one's obviously newer and we'll need to ensure that we are up to date in our equipment

so that the two can be seamless in their connection. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And what is the cost to update this equipment? Is it totally -- is it deflected in the total appropriation, or is there a more discrete cost? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is, Mr. Chair, just over \$1.2 million and obviously we are only paying for a portion of that. The other portion, as I have indicated, is being funded through agreement with the other party that's benefitting. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. So what's -- do we have the figure here on what the Yukon government is contributing? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. \$843,000 from the Government of Yukon. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Thank you for that number. So is this -- would -- can this be characterized as an unanticipated cost and -- we'll just go there. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I mean, from a timing perspective in that sense, Mr. Chair, it is, and that's what results in it being a supplementary appropriation. The fact that this -- the Mackenzie Valley and the North Fibre Loop were coming together certainly were not that in and of itself wasn't a surprise. I think that's been worked on for some time. But in terms of timing, the -- timing the appropriation from our end to match up to when the Yukon's fibre would be completed and -- because they had I know experienced some delays, but then also knowing when they would need us to be ordering our equipment and putting our equipment forward, that's -- that actually has been accelerated faster than we'd anticipated. So that leads us to having a supplementary appropriation. It's maybe a good example of where a supplementary appropriation can be required when, you know, something isn't expected in terms of timing. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Does the Minister anticipate any further unexpected -- or any timing issues, or is after this appropriation the project expected to move forward to its schedule as we understand it? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this moment in time, Mr. Chair, the information I have, and that we have here, is that this -- the reason we have this exact number coming forward is to order the equipment needed to put the two systems together and that there's a going live date right now anticipated of this fall of this calendar year. So with that kind of a timeline, I would like to think that we are close enough at hand that we will not be returning. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, Minister Wawzonek. I'm going to go to the Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the go -- the live date, the government is in a position to meet that go live date? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, Mr. Chair, we will -- with this appropriation, we'd be in a position to order the equipment that will let us get to the go live date. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to Member of Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Then we better vote for it. Nothing further. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Is there any further questions from Members? I'm going to go to the Member of Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'll be brief in this particular section. I have further details on other pages. But this one in particular, I'm curious, part of the fibre link concept and project initiative was all built around the Government of the Northwest Territories making money off this initiative. Can the Minister start with what -- are we making money off this initiative? See where it goes from there.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do make money off of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Line. I don't have that information here with me. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member of Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Will the Member -- or sorry, will the Minister, yeah, inform this side of the House via either letter or by enormously passionate public statement; I'd prefer the second one but that said I'll accept the letter too. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I prefer the second one as well but if it doesn't come up on the floor, I will certainly provide a note to committee updating them as to what the Mackenzie Valley Fibre does earn for the government. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Any further questions? Okay, no further questions. Any other Members that have questions? Okay. Thank you. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, thank you. I'm going to go to Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Finance, capital investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$1,253,000. Is there any questions from committee -- I mean, Members? Okay, question's been -- does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Moving on, I'm going to go on to -- committee, we will -- committee, we'll now consider the Department of Health and Social Services on page 7. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, \$225,000. Is there any questions? I believe we have Mr. -- from the Sahtu region.

**MR. McNEELY:** Can the Minister explain if that went towards the purchase of materials and the foundation work that has been done? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This project has, unfortunately, seen some significant delays, and this one really is squarely at the feet of COVID-19. What occurred is that some initial work was done on the Tulita Health Centre but then when COVID-19 struck, unfortunately, the community was, you know, obviously taking into consideration the safety of their members and didn't want to be bringing in some of the experts and construction crews that were required to support the capacity in the community. As such, the contractor then wasn't in a position to advance the project, and it's now is delayed approximately three years. And that is the reason for the negative appropriation because the timing of it is such that in this fiscal year, the project didn't get to the point of requiring those funds. That said, I can say that there's been some work -- and coupled with that -- Mr. Chair, coupled with that there's now, of course as with so many other things, between inflation and rising costs of projects and materials, there's been an increase in the project costs. So that's required us to go back and just re-examine how this is going to go forward and work with the contractor to confirm that they can proceed. And that's where I can say that it is expected at this point that we are in a position to get going and get back to this as of this spring. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member of Sahtu.

**MR. McNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thanks for the response. That provides clarity to that. I know for a fact that the government, through one of the departments, have did inventory audits on the materials, particularly the wooden materials that are staged at the Tulita airstrip in behind the fenced compound. And I'm just wondering if the project is going to need more money for deteriorated lumber? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have some information that I was referring to with respect to challenges just in terms of the labour force capacity. I don't have information about specific materials that may have degraded although that's certainly -- it seems like it's a possibility, and I will go back to the department just to make sure that they have considered that when they're coming back up with what the new cost estimates might be. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member of Sahtu.

**MR. McNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Those are the only questions I got. I appreciate the Minister's response to going back to check on the quality of the material. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the Member asked some good questions, the Member previous for the Sahtu, but the -- just one aspect is -- the Minister can respond to this if she wishes, but I would hope that the department or the government at large would be acting with the greatest of diligence to ensure that that material is protected from elements and sticky fingers to ensure that that is ready and available so that community isn't denied the work and projects that they need when they're ready to do it.

On a separate note, specific to the line item under administrative and support services, now I can appreciate the net impact on government is nil, I'm just curious on how many people were -- just out of curiosity, how many people is this so-called database program supporting? It says it's designed for professional licensing and office so I mean -- yeah, we'll start with that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, so just I want to be clear you're asking how many -- if this is involving staff, like additional creation of positions?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. It says a new database to support the professional licensing office. So maybe they could elaborate a little better. Is this about keeping track of them, or how is it used, or maybe they could elaborate a little further. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So it's an implementation of a new database to support professional regulation which is done at the professional licensing office in the Northwest Territories. This funding will help support the creation and building of a system for an online application structure so that professionals seeking to be licensed in the Northwest Territories can do so via this system. And that -- to do that when there's a new IT system that rolls out, there will be privacy impact assessment done on that system as well as a security -- cyber security threat assessment done which -- both of which are

now becoming more and more complex in modern -- with the modern systems, and that is where this funding will support that work. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member of YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank goodness we're not paying for it, but it does seem like a lot of money considering how many positions and whatnot we have here in the Northwest Territories. I mean -- but that's more of a comment as opposed to anything else.

That said, the next section is health and social programs. Specifically I'd like to discuss my concerns or questions around a wellness and recovery centre here in Yellowknife. I see a negative \$7.1 million. Maybe the Minister can update committee and the people at large why is there a negative in this particular case and, furthermore, what impact it will have on that initiative? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, this is some timing issues. So the health and wellness project didn't proceed obviously in this current year but it is approved and ready to move forward, so it was delayed but it is at this point planned to get underway in terms of the construction during the upcoming capital season. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to Member from YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Just for further clarity, what is the updated capital season the Minister's referring to, just to make sure we're on the record and clear. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So final design will be done in the next -- well, early in the 2024 fiscal year, and then it goes out for tender. We are expecting the construction to then begin over this year with a view to having it ready by the fall and the centre opened by the fall of 2026. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm just next going to check with the scope of the initial project. So if the Minister can confirm that the scope of the project hasn't



changed or if so, what has changed? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have a details on the scope. I can certainly see perhaps if Mr. Courtoreille might have some details on scope and if not, I can certainly ensure that we provide an update and a detailed delineation of that to the Member.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Oh sorry, I was looking down and making notes so I assumed it was waived off that there would be a letter or some communique coming back, or was that going to be answered by the staff -- the officials? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's amazing what you find with a extra few seconds. So my understanding is that the scope has not changed, and there was just a delay in terms of the design and location but at this point, as it proceeds on the path that I had described and on the timeline I described, the scope's not changed. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** If the Minister would provide that information to Members, that would be appreciated.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** We can do that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go back to YK Centre, the Member.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there's also another element about neighbourhood stuff. So the impacts on the neighbourhood. I'm curious as to -- with respect to this initiative, and I'm referring to the dollar value, is any money within the overall scope of the project or initiative helping to address some of the neighbourhood concerns that this will have? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to the Minister of Finance.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the detail around that, I think I would have to go to the Department of Health and Social Services. So I can get that and provide that in due course. Yes, I'll make sure that the Members get that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member of YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. I'll accept that on behalf of the Members at large, and I look forward to that.

Is there a -- and further just to underline my level of interest or particular interest on this, is there a budget line item in the overall project to help work with the community that is impacted by this project? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for the clarity on the question. So this funding really is for the construction of the facility and not for the operations of the facility and that while during capital planning there would be consideration given to what operational impacts there might be, this funding specifically is just the infrastructure component, and what type of operations and what kind of engagement processes they may undertake would be part of the operational plan that would fall under Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. The Member from YK Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** If I could get some detail on that and, of course, I still would like the other information already offered. Just to confirm from the Member -- Minister, and I'll -- that's enough for now.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to the Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, I will endeavour to get a more detailed update of the costs, the timing, and whatever information may be available. I mean, again, noting that operations are two years out but we can at least provide some sense of what the planning process is like. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I just wanted to remind Members we are considering capital investment expenditures -- sorry, expenditures of \$1,253,000. Please ask questions only related to this activity. The next Member I have is Frame Lake.

**MR. MORSE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I just wanted to follow up a little bit on the line of questioning that my colleague from Yellowknife Centre was asking about.

So I know the department had previously communicated publicly that they were going to have the tender out in January and that would put them on a timeline to finish in 2026. So to get to the specific question, is the current delay, is there any risk of it affecting the \$24 million that we've received from the federal government? Does that funding have a timeline associated with it that we need to meet? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, fortunately, the short answer is I don't believe that it does affect that funding and that although there was some delay from the January -- or some slippage from the January date, we are still looking to and expecting to have the tender issuance out by March of 2024. So hopefully not significant enough of a slippage that it will cause delay in the 2026 date that I mentioned earlier. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Frame Lake.

**MR. MORSE:** Thank you. I just want to -- does the Minister know if there is a timeline at all? Like, it sounds like we are within it so that's good to hear, but is there a timeline under which this funding would lapse?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** I'll go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I mean, the current -- there's always at some point a challenge that money would lapse but at this moment in time, with the tender due out in March and the current project schedule that I described targeting fall of 2026, that would be well within the funding envelope that we have. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, thank you. I just want to make sure that we're still on the administrative and support services. I'm going to go back to the Member from Frame Lake.

**MR. MORSE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's it for questions on this section.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to continue on. I'm going to go the Member from YK North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I do have one question on administrative and support services, and then I'll come back later for my follow-up questions about the YK Wellness and Recovery Centre under health and social programs. Okay.

So following up about the new database to support the professional licensing office, so I'm aware that last year, health Ministers from across Canada, including the NWT, committed to a new process that would allow physicians who are licensed in one part of Canada and, if they're in good standing, to practice in other parts of Canada. So that's called pan-Canadian licensing. And so given that this creates an online application for getting licensed in the NWT, are there plans to ensure that this database could also move us closer towards being part of this pan-Canadian licensing potentially sort of interacting with databases in other parts of Canada? Is that at all part of the scope of this project?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the extent or the degree to which the two things are related is probably properly a question for Health and Social Services. What I can say and I can confirm, Northwest Territories certainly has agreed to work with Canada on increasing the portability of licensing between jurisdictions. This portion -- and I know it was noted that \$225,000 seems like a lot. I can say from having now seen how information shared system services works that these things do cost significant amounts of money to do properly. This amount gets us to a place where we can set up a database by which that licensing can happen electronically, so bringing us up to that standard. And, again, the two aren't related but the degree to which this may or may not advance or accelerate, that I don't have in front of me. That's for Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, I'm going to go to the Member from YK North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I definitely appreciate that, and it's something that I will follow up on with the Minister of Health and Social Services, but that's it for now. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Member from Inuvik Boot Lake.

**MR. RODGERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have questions not on what's in there but I guess what's not in there, and I'm

assuming it's the appropriate place to bring it up.

In 2018, I was intimately involved with the much-needed planning for a 48 bed long-term care facility in Inuvik. I know formerly IRC had presented to the Minister at the time, we had several meetings with the Minister at the time, regarding a proposal that had been developed by IRC, including a building design, staffing plan, and a go-forward on how this would be implemented. Now, I know in the previous Assembly there was talk of reducing that. I also know there was some geotechnical work being done in at least one location in Inuvik to provide that. So can I just get an update, I guess, has that been deleted entirely, or is that still something that I can expect to see coming in May?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Before I go to the Minister, the question that you have is pertaining to long-term -- sorry, long-term or continuing care services just two down. Is there a question that you had for administrative and support services?

**MR. RODGERS:** Oh sorry, I thought we were doing the entire page; I apologize. I can defer my question until we get to the long-term care facility.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay. Further comments from the Members? Okay, I don't see any. Okay, I'm going to go on to -- thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, \$225,000. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health and social services programs, not previously authorized, negative \$15,109,000. Is there any questions from the committee? Let me go to the Member from Great Slave.

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the witnesses clarify as to the previous questions asked by my colleague from Frame Lake regarding the wellness and recovery centre, what would be the dropdead date for monies to be spent for that project? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is something I'd have to go and look at infrastructure acquisition plan on. Right now we've been given some assurance at this stage that the federal government is prepared to be flexible on their funding and that at the current rate and with the current design, which again at this point has us tendering -- of having a final design and tender out in March, so next month, and with projects moving forward from there. On that timeline, we're not anticipating any challenges. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Member of Great Slave.

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further on this item.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Any further general comments? I'm going to go to the Member of Yellowknife -- YK North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So just a few follow-up questions to those of some of my colleagues.

So the Minister mentioned a few minutes ago that the delays in construction for the new Yellowknife Wellness and Recovery Centre were partly due to design and location issues. Has the proposed location for the new centre changed?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, there's no change at this point. There was a lack of design capacity I understand as being part of the problem and some -- a technical completion in term -- technical completion -- completeness -- excuse me, with respect to ensuring that we had proper permitting from both the Office of the Fire Marshal and the city of Yellowknife. But they also wanted to achieve some performance targets to be -- with the National Energy Code and to be at least at 10 percent above performance targets in that respect. So some of that design work took a little bit longer but that, as I say, at this point I understand is done, complete, and we're at a stage of preparing the procurement process. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Member from YK North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister clarify, so the federal funding that's allocated to this project, is it a percentage of the total cost or is it a set amount? Meaning if the budget increases over time due to the delays,

does the federal contribution also proportionately increase or are we left to shoulder all of the -- any increases in the cost of this project due to delays? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So right now it is 100 percent federally funded. But all of our projects, unfortunately, are subject to the potential for cost increases. We're not immune to inflation or high interest rates or supply chain issues or labour market issues. When that happens, the proportion of funding from the federal government does not automatically change. There are instances where we are able to go back to negotiate an increase to a budget from the federal government or to negotiate a change in the percentage. For example, on a project that's 75/25 we can maybe increase that, but it is definitely not an automatic thing. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from YK North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you to the Minister for that clarification. And so by saying that this project is 100 percent federal funded, is federal funding expected to still cover 100 percent of the capital investment in this project, or are we looking at covering any overages in costs to this project that we didn't perhaps initially expect when we negotiated an agreement with the federal government?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right now at this moment, the budget is one that is fully covered through ICIP as well as a second -- largely a second fund being put forward by the federal government to support the project health infrastructure fund. And the cost estimate in this particular instance is quite recent. It's just from this past 2023-2024 fiscal year. We are usually at greater risk -- obviously the greater expanse in time between the time of when we get a final estimate to go forward and then when we proceed to the construction or the tendering. In addition, obviously there's the consideration of the longer a design phase may take, that puts us at greater risk. And sometimes the calls for funding that the federal government puts out can put a situation where a project that's only at a class estimate that is less certain as being put forward because of the timing for the call from the federal government.

In this particular case, again, the cost estimate's fairly recent, the funding is at 100

percent. Yellowknife's a little bit easier than a more remote community. All of those are factors that hopefully will put us in a position where we are not coming back for any changes. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go back to YK North, the Member.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you. That's all my questions on that one. I appreciate the clarity around those details. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, thank you. Any further general comments from Members? Thank you. I'm going to continue on.

Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health and social services programs not previously authorized, negative \$15,190,000. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, long term and continuing care services, not previously authorized, negative \$2,600,000. Is there any questions? There's one question from Member from YK -- sorry, Member from Frame Lake.

**MR. MORSE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I would ask pretty similar questions on this one as we did on the other facility that we were talking about in Yellowknife. What's the reason for the change in project timeline?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I want to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, let me see if Mr. Courtoreille might have that handy. Thank you.

**MR. TERENCE COURTOREILLE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This project has been delayed largely due to the natural disasters in Hay River over the past couple of years. We've had flooding two years ago and then last year with the wildfire situation. And this sup proposal is really just to move the construction dollars to a forward period to accommodate construction of the project at a future time. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I want to go to the Member from Frame Lake.

**MR. MORSE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. It sounded from that answer that we don't yet

have a date for when that's going to start. Do we have a date, or it's still up in the air?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have a date here specifically, and I can certainly go back and confirm if there is something. At this point, we just have the design phase from 2023-2024 and with that complete, hoping to get going in 2024-2025. But, again, I think given some of the impacts over the last year to the community, we'd want to go back and confirm that before that's taken as final. But, again, hoping it will be beginning of this season. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member of Frame Lake. Thank you.

Next Member I have is Inuvik Boot Lake.

**MR. RODGERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll repeat my question again. In 2018, I was intimately involved with the much-needed proposed 48-bed long-term care facility in Inuvik. A design was done by IRC, including the staffing plan. I know there's been some work done, some geotechnical work done on one potential location up there for it. Several meetings were had with the then Minister of health. So my question is given that the Hay River one is, albeit deferred, still on the books, has that one been deleted?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So this was one of several projects with respect to long-term care that I believe it was in and around or immediately after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and a recognition across Canada around long-term care and the direction that long-term care might need to go, namely, to be a shift towards more operations rather than capital in order to help seniors and elders remain in their homes with support rather than have to be in long-term care situations. And with that and with that change, a number of projects were re-examined. This is one of them and, in that sense, it went back to its planning stage, and that is what the funding is -- there is still now funding for that to happen. That is expected. That fulsome re-examination of planning is expected and planned for 2024-2025. And then once that is then -- once that planning is done, it would be returning back through the capital planning process. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Inuvik Boot Lake.

**MR. RODGERS:** Yeah, I mean this project to me ticks -- you know, ticks a lot of boxes if you look at our priorities. Obviously working with Indigenous governments given that, I believe -- and we'd have to go back to IRC again to have that conversation, there was even an offer for IRC to put skin in the game in this one and actually build a facility and then have GNWT operate and lease the beds from them solely for that, including oversight on the staffing. There's obviously the 60 positions that would come with this, so you talk about the economy and then boost the economy and certainly a boost to our region having 60 -- likely 30 of those full-time positions and 30 part-time positions in the region would be very important as well. And, of course, the training aspect, working with Aurora College, new polytechnic to do this.

So the Minister said that they're going to look at in 2024-2025 sort of gone back to the do-we-need-it phase, or is this something that is still looked at as a potential project? And I understand about the, you know, aging in your home, but I did hear quite a bit on, certainly when I was campaigning, there were quite a few people that raised the issue of no long-term care facilities in the region and nowhere for -- you know, elders having to leave the community of Inuvik and move to other regions in the territory to access that kind of care.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, I know that at one point there was an examination just around the numbers of beds that would be appropriate, keeping in mind some of those considerations that I had mentioned previously, and that is the state of the planning as to -- but there is still an intention that there should be and would need to be an addition or an expansion of a long-term care facility in Inuvik. Part of the consideration is whether or to what extent it can be done as an expansion to the hospital in Inuvik. So, again, I do want to give some assurance that there's a recognition that there do need to be some expansion. It's exactly how much and where, what that might look like, and what types of facilities would be included. So, for instance, what types of laundry and kitchen facilities, what kind of programming facilities. So long answer but, you know, again, assurance that there's something coming. It's a matter of making sure that it's appropriately sized in terms of the beds.

Perhaps, Mr. Chair -- again, I don't have -- because that project isn't provided in great detail here, I can certainly commit to providing an update to the -- you know, likely relying on my colleague from Health and Social Services but an update to the Member on the project. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Inuvik Boot Lake.

**MR. RODGERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And, yes, and certainly I would seek permission from IRC but I'd be happy to share the proposal that was presented because I may or may not still have that on a memory stick when I was -- from being up there, worked on that one quite extensively. And given our -- again, you know, this government, we want to work more collaboratively with Indigenous governments as we move forward, it's been kind of -- we've wrapped a lot of things of what we said and what we'll do around that.

So can the Minister -- and I'm not sure if she'd have this information or her staff. So the geotechnical work was done on one site between the hospital and the nurses' residence in Inuvik. Has that been -- was that geotechnical work completed? And if so, what was the result from the -- from that work?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So a geotechnical analysis has been completed and some -- but there -- well, there, that's the answer. Geotechnical has been completed. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Boot Lake.

**MR. RODGERS:** Good. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Any further Members' statements? Okay. I want to continue on.

Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, long term and continuing care services not previously authorized, negative \$2,600,000. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Health and Social Services, capital

investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, negative \$17,484,000. Is there any questions? Okay, does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, thank you. Committee, we'll continue on.

Committee, we will now consider the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment on page 8.

Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, minerals and petroleum resources not previously authorized, negative \$1,197,000. Is there any questions? We'll go to the Member from Great Slave.

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm curious about the carry forward for the mineral administration and registry system. Perhaps the witnesses could clarify. It's my understanding that some part of this system will have to do with online staking, which is something folks have been asking for from this government for some time now. And I was wondering if you could clarify if that is, indeed, the case in the system and the slippage. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Indeed, the MARS system is required for online map staking, and it has been pushed back in terms of its delivery date more than once, and I have sat in this very chair on that topic more than once. Mr. Chair, I share some frustration on this one. There's a few different factors at play. One of which is that the MARS Project also depends on the LTOS Project, which is Land, Tenure, Optimization System I believe. And that project has experienced itself also some challenges. But I -- you know, again, every time I'm here, it seems like we're in a good place and I'm conscious that I -- as I said, I know I've said these things before sitting right here but it's my understanding at this point that LTOS is moving along but it's been -- that had its planning stage developed in the fall of 2023 or a little -- well, more functional planning done in November 2023. That, once LTOS is complete which will be happening other the coming fiscal year, then the MARS Project can get underway and be done in line with the LTOS system, which I believe it is essentially going to be layered upon.

So, Mr. Chair, I can simply say, not to go on at great length, I know the Member asked for time,

but I have asked a number of times why this is so difficult and it's been pointed out to me that sometimes the idea on a cyber project doesn't come with enough planning and that when we actually dig in to how to do the thing it's not that dissimilar to any other capital project that it takes a significant amount of design and structure. So, again, I'd be happy to perhaps -- this is one that may well warrant a full briefing with committee, to be honest. I have several pages of material on this project in front of me. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Great Slave.

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I heard in there somewhere that the LTOS Project is slated to be completed in the next fiscal year. Does that mean that the MARS system will be for the following fiscal year of 2025-2026?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. LTOS will be finished in the coming fiscal year, not in the next six weeks. And then MARS does come to completion thereafter. So we are looking at 2025 for LTOS and 2026 for MARS. I am not sure if there's any opportunity or possibility of having one or the other layered upon them, but at this point those are the dates that I have. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Great Slave.

**MS. REID:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, nothing further. But I'm sure other Members may have some probing questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I too have questions about MARS. And my recollection is that in the way back machine of the 18th Assembly, we were starting to talk about online map staking. So why is it taking until 2026 if this is something that's been in the works for so long? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Oh, Mr. Chair, why is this taking so long? I can speak a bit to the Mineral Resource Act regulations which is bound up with MARS because MARS, of course -- I shouldn't say of course, I'm sorry. It is a complicated thing to do and perhaps more complicated than it seems on its face. Because online map staking on its face seems like a

simple and good thing, but if it's going to happen to the MARS system, the MARS system is taking all of the existing mineral resource information and digitizing it and making it accessible and functional from within a digital system. It's doing that within the Land Tenure Optimization System, which itself was also not done and was delayed after COVID. So we're waiting on that to get finished as the sort of infrastructure, then the MARS system gets put on top of it, and it requires the regulations to be ready to go so that there can be decisions made about the kind of engagements that are expected to take place. So, for instance, when and how proactively a proponent will be expected to go to an Indigenous government or Indigenous community and speak to them before doing online map staking, that is part of what is changing with respect to the Mineral Resources Act regulations. That is then built into this system. That's just by way of one example.

So now that said, we have been here before. I recognize that we've been here before, and I think others do as well. Some of the process certainly did take longer. It was one of the first projects that's gone through the legislative protocol that we have under the Indigenous government -- IGS. So in the end, they'll be some good news, Mr. Chair, but at this point all of those processes were fairly new and have certainly taken longer than what was anticipated. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I have had some experience with the MRA, having dealt with it in the 18th Assembly and then in my nonpolitical life working for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation working on the Mineral Resources Act regulations. And I know that the MARS portion of those discussions at the intergovernmental level, it's an -- it's not as key of a priority as getting some of the other aspects of the regulations right such as benefit agreements and things like that. So as we've opened this can of worms, do we know if MARS is -- or those elements are expected to move forward within the planned schedule of implementing the MRA regulations? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I want to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, at this point the regulations -- the last information I had is under both the regulations and the timing was when I was still the Minister of ITI. So I would like to defer to the Minister on that and get a proper update that is up to date. So I know what I have

in front of me is that there is a lot of work happening. As I said, I have a lot of information with respect to MARS as I've also been asking some questions about it. And the Member is quite right, that while MARS itself may not have been central to the ongoing negotiations it's part and parcel of it, and it's difficult in general to create an online system and a complex online system when the regulations weren't complete. So that every time there's been some slippage on the regulations, there's slippage on the timing around MARS in addition to the challenges with LTOS. So this has certainly been an IT project that has not gone to timing. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I appreciate the Minister is not the subject matter expert on this and the substantiation for supplementary appropriation is not the same as a project report or a project update. So I apologize if I put her in a spot to provide more information. So I appreciate what she's been able to provide today. MARS is probably the best acronym of our many bad acronyms. So it would be great if we could get this moving forward for more reasons than that. But I do like the acronym.

So if we -- do we know the real costs of this? Because it's been pushed off for a significant period of time. We keep moving it forward. It's tied to another system that we don't have before us. So do we know the real costs, and do we -- have we appropriated enough to complete the successful implementation of MARS by its anticipated date of 2026? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't have a final total estimate in front of me. Oh, maybe I do, I take that back.

So at this point, Mr. Chair, looking at a total of \$3.7 million for this but that's only on the MARS side. I don't know that that -- that does not include what may be required on LTOS. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** And that's sufficient according to the current specifications of the registry? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Chair, quite frankly, this project has had a number of challenges and has had a number of delays. I can only say that that is the current estimate. Confidence in that estimate, obviously I recognize may be low in the circumstances. I can only commit to -- and I know that my colleague would also be wanting to commit to coming back and keeping people updated. That's probably the best that we can do. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Is the project being built by contractors or being built internally? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** A contractor, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** And has -- thank you. And thank you to the Minister. And has -- is that -- that contract's in place with that amount of money? Yeah, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a contract in place and a contractor involved, the same I believe, for both LTOS and MARS, and they are actively working with the GNWT at this time. As to the currentness of their -- of a cost estimate with them, I can't say. I will confirm with ITI if it's not the numbers that I've provided. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** I know the Minister's generous with commitments so can she commit to getting the LTOS project costs to us as well? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** That'll be with ECC. I will -- that makes sense that we wrap up the two together. Thank you.



**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** And finally, so as the two are kind of intrinsically linked, have all the regulatory -- the necessary regulatory steps taken place with I'm assuming the Public Lands Act that are required for the Land Tenure Optimization System? Maybe I won't mention the legislation but are all the regs out of the way for the LTOS Project, or is there still more regulatory change that needs to take place? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm not 100 percent certain with respect to LTOS. I think they may still be in drafting. I'll confirm that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Drafting the regulations or drafting the LTOS Project specs? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Regulations, Mr. Chair. I just don't have as much information about LTOS nor am I as familiar with it. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. I've only got 40 seconds. So I won't ask any more questions. But I will say it would be nice if we could ensure there are no impediments in policy or appropriations that would delay these two projects any further, and I would be happy to support the Ministers responsible in ensuring these things come to fruition because we desperately need them, especially the online map staking piece. If we're going to super charge our industry and get exploration back on track, we need this system in place, and I'd like to see it before 2026. But, you know, I can wish for a lot of things. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Any Members from -- Member from Frame Lake.

**MR. MORSE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, since the other Member ran out of time I kind of wanted to pick up the ball where he left off. And I think that the Minister's suggestion for a specific briefing, possibly for the SCEDE

committee, would be a good idea on this one because it is fairly complex, and it sounds like she's got lots of information to share with us.

But I was just going to ask, there's several other jurisdictions in Canada that have systems like this. I don't know what the status is with the contractor or anything but is there a possibility that we don't really need to reinvent the wheel, or is it really that every jurisdiction has to have a completely unique system? Because I know BC has one. Ontario has one. I haven't had a chance to do a huge amount of research on this, but they exist already, so is there no reason we can't effectively kind of borrow from an existing system and put it in place?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I want to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I recall that the Ontario system took ten years to develop to go from their old Mineral Resource Act to the one they have now which includes the online map staking. So keeping that in mind, you know, we're not as offside in terms of a timeline.

With respect to reinventing the wheel, I mean, again, I can't speak to the experience of the third-party contractor that they have now, but it certainly is someone who does exactly this type of work so I would like to think that if someone's an expert in this field that they would certainly not be reinventing something unnecessarily.

Part of what's made our situation unique is the unique nature of land and land ownership and land rights in the Northwest Territories. But, again, Mr. Chair, in that regard I can say that there was some work done to ensure that our approach is one that is going to be modern and, if anything, it's -- it will be responding to the uniqueness of the Northwest Territories. So, for instance, even just deciding on a grid versus not took some time but that decision has been made and moved on. So, yes, I don't think a reinventing of the wheel is the challenge at this point, Mr. Chair. But thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to the Member from Frame Lake.

**MR. MORSE:** I'm done. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay. All right. We're going to continue on. Thank you.

I'm going to read out Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024,, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investments expenditures, mineral and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, negative \$1,197,000. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, committee.

Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, negative \$1,197,000. Is there any questions? Don't see any. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you.

Committee, we'll now consider the Department of Infrastructure on page 9.

Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, asset management not previously authorized, negative \$2,885,000. Is there any questions from committee? Don't see none. Does the committee agree? Okay, committee agreed.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, program and services not previously authorized, \$30,331,000. Is there any questions? Okay. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you.

Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$27,446,000. Is there any questions? Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you.

Members, there is a schedule on page 10 that details impact on capital estimates. This schedule is not a voteable item and is included as information only. Are there any questions on this schedule? I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What is the impact on the supplementary reserve as it currently is? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we don't have a sup reserve for the infrastructure side. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Whoops, thank you for the clarification. I'll have sup reserved questions for the operational expenditure. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, thank you. I'm going to go to -- okay, I'm going to go back to supplementary estimates again.

Infrastructure Expenditures, No. 3, 2023-2024, Department of Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, total department not previously authorized, \$27,446,000. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Members, there is a schedule on page 10 that detail the impacts of capital estimates. This schedule is not a voteable item and is included as information only. Are there any questions on this schedule? Okay, seeing no further questions, is there -- as this is not a voteable item, we will now continue on. We will continue on. Thank you.

Committee, do you agree that you have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 28-20(1), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** The motion is in order. To the motion.

Thank you. There's no further -- Member will say agree, the Member will rise and move -- Member from Boot Lake.

COMMITTEE MOTION 2-20(1):  
CONCURRENCE MOTION - Tabled  
DOCUMENT 28-20(1): SUPPLEMENTARY  
ESTIMATES (INFRASTRUCTURE  
EXPENDITURES), NO. 3, 2023-2024,  
CARRIED

**MR. RODGERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 28-20(1), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2023-2024, now be concluded and that Tabled Document 28-20(1) be reported and

recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried.

Tabled Document 28-20(1) will be reported as ready for consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill.

---Carried

Thank you, Minister, and thank you to the witnesses for appearing before us today. Thank you.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Document 29-20(1), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 29-20(1), Supplementary Estimates (Operation Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024. Does the Minister of Finance have any opening remarks?

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am happy to present Tabled Document 29-20(1), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024. These supplementary estimates propose a total increase of \$207 million of which \$44 million will be offset by revenues from the Government of Canada. These supplementary estimates can be summarized with the following expenditures:

- \$86 million in support of fire suppression and response and recovery work due to the wildfire activity from May to September 2023;
- \$54 million in support of the health care system of which \$22 million is offset by revenues from the federal Government of Canada;
- \$18 million to address rising interest rates and Government of the Northwest Territories debt servicing costs;
- \$14 million to support the projected deficit for Marine Transportation Services;
- \$8 million for the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund, which is

fully offset by revenues from the Government of Canada;

- \$6 million to support the funding for the Hay River Harbour Restoration offset by revenues from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada totaling \$3 million; and,
- \$4 million to support the implementation of the national action plan to end gender-based violence which is fully offset by revenues from the Government of Canada.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chair. I am happy to answer questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you, Minister. Does the Minister of Finance wish to bring new witnesses forward? Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Would the sergeant-at-arms please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Thank you. We already had our introductions a little earlier so I'm going to continue on.

Would the Minister -- I will now open the floor for general comments. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake. Any Members general comments? I don't see any. Okay, seeing no further general comments, does the committee agree to proceed to the detail contained in the tabled documents?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Committee, we will begin on page 3 with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, culture, heritage and languages not previously authorized, \$200,000. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, junior kindergarten to grade 12 school services not previously authorized, \$100,000. Is there any questions? Thank you. I got a Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I note that the substantiation is to provide funding for

the implementation of a national action plan to end gender-based violence. Can the Minister provide some further detail on what this money will be used for? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister of Finance.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, let me turn this to Terence and see if he can. I just don't have my spot ahead of me, Mr. Chair.

**MR. TERENCE COURTOREILLE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So this funding is supplementary funding to promote the implementation plan that consists of 18 initiatives that will touch on support for survivors and their families, prevention, responsive justice system, implementing Indigenous-led approaches, and social infrastructure and enabling environments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. So I note that it's under junior kindergarten to 12 school services. So specific to those objectives, how do they interact with the JK to 12 school systems; how will they be used in our school environments? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is precisely why I was hesitating because I was hoping to find that detail. I don't have that in the detail here that's on this particular briefing note. I will -- there is a very detailed breakdown. I happen to have seen under our past iteration of a role that I held in the last government. I don't have that detail in front of me, but I can get it to the Members. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** I'll go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. I mean, I don't want to look a gift horse in the mouth because this is free money, so I appreciate that. And I can imagine how it would be used in creating a supportive environment in our school's system that -- I think that's a very effective place to put it to ensure that young persons or teachers or whoever -- it would be nice to know just so we can get a better understanding of it, so I appreciate the Minister's commitment, and I'll leave it there. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Member from Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had initial inquiry into the same question to begin with, which is basically what is it. If I understood what was said correctly, 18 programs or 18 -- I wasn't sure how this breaks out to what type of initiatives. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll move it to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, the national action plan has five pillars, one of which is

- Support for survivors and their families;
- Secondly, prevention;
- Third, a responsive justice system;
- Fourth, implementing Indigenous-led approaches; and,
- Fifth, social infrastructure and enabling environment.

I believe this particular \$100,000 here, falling under the junior kindergarten to grade 12 is specific to the element under support for survivors and their families as well as to prevention. And in this regard, it is to enhance training and curriculum on gender-based violence prevention as well as intervention training for school staff, students, as well as Department of Education, Culture and Employment staff. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll now go to the Member from Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it possible to send the Members a copy of whatever this action plan is so we can get a better sense of what it is? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I certainly can forward a copy. The national action plan to end gender-based violence was released by WAGE Canada. I'm certain it's online. They then have taken that funding out to every province and territory and discussed how each province and territory would implement those five pillars which were agreed to under the national plan. So I will -- again, I can certainly forward the link on the action plan, and I believe our own response plan should also be online by now but if I'm incorrect, I'll make sure that we can get a copy. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. We'll go to the next Member from the Deh Cho.

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. What communities are involved in this for the Northwest Territories?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll move it to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, this work is being led with -- the national action plan and our response to it is led by the gender equity unit and specifically under the Minister responsible to support the status of women who is the counterpart here for WAGE Canada. And in that respect, I can say that that therefore involves all communities, and different communities have different community liaisons who are the touch point for the director of gender -- of gender -- sorry, the gender equity unit. So, again, I believe it should involve every community through that process. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Deh Cho.

**MRS. YAKELEYA:** How is this program -- the design of that, it must have included the community members, the community -- the leadership and the Members in the community, are they included in the design of this? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr. Chair, there's -- you know, again, I'm -- there was, I know back and forth, and this is really back in the 19th Assembly with a different hat on, there is a liaison process between the gender equity unit and communities. Some community liaisons were more active than others. Some were challenging to have engagements with. And some communities were very active and brought community groups together to have engagements. So there's also the shelter network that exists across the Northwest Territories and an informal network that exists across the Northwest Territories through that entity. So all of those are touch points. There's also, I know, been presentations by the gender equity unit to the Council of Leaders and at various times about both the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry as well as gender equity unit. So there's quite a lot of work that's gone into it, Mr. Chair. And at this point this supplementary estimate is just for WAGE Canada's funding of the work that's happening in the gender equity unit, not necessarily the gender equity unit at large. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Is there any further questions from Members? Okay, thank you.

Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, junior kindergarten to grade 12 school services not previously authorized, \$100,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you.

Moving on, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, labour development and advanced education, not previously authorized, \$2,843,000. Any Members -- Range Lake. Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the North Slave regional training partnership, how is this money being utilized in the region? Is it just funding for the department, or is it available to other parties who are developing regional training programs and partnerships in the region? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the funding here is being used to establish, in part, a coordinator position that will then support both coordination and research under this agreement and will also help support the management and use of the regional training hub. So, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So that regional training hub will tie together the Tlicho communities, the Yellowknives Dene, and Yellowknife? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Minister, Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Chair, I don't have the details of what -- about the training hub here, only the supplementary request to have the coordination position moving forward to get that work underway. But, again, I'm happy to have ECE provide a bit more detail as to what that training hub's meant to accomplish. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. What's the total budget for the hub? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have that here. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Has the funding for this been approved in a previous budget, or is this kind of planning dollars? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this funding for 2023-2024 is new. We're looking to appropriate the amount that's coming from CanNor to support the initiative. There's a smaller \$30,000 amount that's being funded internally by the GNWT. But that's why it's being brought forward under a supplementary appropriation is that -- this amount had not previously been included in the department's budget. For 2024-2025, I expect that it can be and hopefully can be included as part of the department's budget in this and then you won't see it in the supplementary appropriations; you'd be seeing it in part of their main estimates. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Sorry, thank you to the Minister. So the position that -- the coordinator position that it's funding that will sit within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So this portion of the funding, there's an amount here of approximately \$100,000 that is meant to provide the manager and coordinator for the program and for the funding -- I'm sorry, for the hub, and some remaining -- the remaining amount, roughly \$30,000 or so, is for contract services in support of the work. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. So -- sorry, just to confirm, so that -- the staffing funding, 100K for staffing, that is a public service position? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Yes, it is. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Member from Range Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Nothing further. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** I'm going to go to the Member from Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So zeroing in on the labour market transfer agreement, can the Minister first confirm whether this is a new source of funding, or does this involve new programs?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'll go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, these are -- this is not -- these are not new. There's a suite of different labour market programs that are delivered on behalf of the government by ECE. There's two, for instance, for employers that help support various training initiatives and the rest target organizations that provide more group-based skills, so not necessarily to an employee specifically but, for instance, community employment officers or career centres. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Member from Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you to the Minister for that. And so my understanding is that the overall goal of this is to increase labour market participation, align skills with labour market needs, create efficient labour markets. Does the funding include tracking of to what extent we're achieving the goals that we're setting out for ourself with specific metrics?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure if this specific funding would necessarily cover that work, but there is certainly an annual plan that does outline what is happening on the regional -- on a regional scale for these programs. That's part of ECE's expectation and part of having -- every time there's a contribution agreement, this is where that type of reporting back in does then inform

the ECE process in terms of understanding where they're spending these public dollars. There's an annual report that is produced which does take into account performance measures and that it does demonstrate what's coming under the performance measurements plan. So I don't know -- oh, and -- sorry, one last thing, Mr. Chair, I'll add, is that under the labour market transfer agreements with Canada, again because there is also an expectation of reporting in to them, there is also a joint report there as well for over a more extended period that I could certainly, if the Member doesn't have it or doesn't find it online, would be happy to provide. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member for Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And so I guess what I'm -- what I'm getting at is we often track the activities that we do but we sometimes miss how effective those activities are at actually achieving the ultimate outcomes that we're trying to get at in terms of increasing labour market participation, creating efficient labour markets. I just -- I wonder if the Minister could either send us some reports or has any insights into whether these programs that have been going on for a number of years have actually made progress in achieving the outcomes that we're working towards and if there's been analysis of whether there's any other activities or ways to achieve those outcomes if in fact what we're doing with this money hasn't brought us further towards the outcomes we're trying to achieve.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I want to go to Minister Wawzonek.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we're in the wrong briefing for me to talk about government renewal, but I share the Member's concern around ensuring that we have a culture of evaluation within the public service in terms of the delivery of programs and services, which is one of the sub-goals of that program is that -- so, for instance, to be very transparent one of the first questions I was asking here when I heard the Member's question is whether or not these labour market programs are actually one of the first to be going through the enhancement -- enhanced evaluations under GRI. At this time, they're not. Maybe that day will come. But in the meantime, the process of evaluation is meant to get at just that. So as for the detail of where we're at in terms of labour market evaluations, that's an ECE question, and I'm confident that they would be more than happy to meet with Members and to talk about some of the labour market initiatives. There's a

whole suite of programs as I've said. So thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. I'm going to go to the Member from Yellowknife North.

**MS. MORGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I thank the Minister for her frankness and those insights, and I look forward to continued conversations both with the Department of ECE and the government to see what we can do to make these programs even more efficient and effective at achieving the outcomes we're striving towards. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Thank you. Is there any further comments, general comments from Members? If not, I'm going to continue on here.

Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, labour development and advanced education not previously authorized, \$2,843,000. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** We're going to continue on. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, total department not previously authorized, \$3,143,000. Is there any questions? Okay, no -- oh okay, yes. All right, I'm going to go to Member from Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to confirm, of course, a nod will do on this end, but we're dealing with one section at a time? Just a -- yeah, okay. So sounds good.

So under the environment management monitoring -- sorry, oh I thought we were on page 4. My page 4 says something different. Okay, we're not on page 4. Okay. For those who read Hansard, we'll wait.

**MR. TESTART:** Stay tuned.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, thank you. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures) No. 4, 2023-2024, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, total department not previously authorized, \$3,143,000. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Okay, thank you. We're going to stop here. Thank you. I want to go to the Member from Inuvik Boot Lake.

**MR. RODGERS:** (audio) and report progress.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Edjericon):** Noting the clock, committee members, I will now rise and report progress. Thank you to the Minister and to your witnesses. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses from the room -- or from the Chamber. Thank you.

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? Motion carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. And I want to thank the Minister and your witnesses. Thank you.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member from Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

**MR. EDJERICON:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 28-20(1) and Tabled Document 29-20(1) and would like to report progress, with a motion passed. That consideration of Tabled Document 28-20(1) is concluded, and the House concurred to those estimates as amended and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** (audio) Committee of the Whole. Member from Twin Lakes. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstentions? Motion passed. The motion has been carried and Committee of the Whole has been concurred with.

Third reading of bills. Member from Yellowknife Centre.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 1:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
ACT,  
CARRIED

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the third time. And, Mr. Speaker, I request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do I have a seconder for the report? Sorry, Member has asked for a recorded vote. For those all in favour, please stand.

### RECORDED VOTE

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Glen Rutland):** The Member for Yellowknife Centre. The Member for Range Lake. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. The Member for Monfwi. The Member for Frame Lake. The Member for Great Slave. The Member for Mackenzie Delta. The Member for Yellowknife North. The Member for Yellowknife South. The Member for Kam Lake. The Member for Hay River North. The Member for Hay River South. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. The Member for Nunakput. The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. The Member for Deh Cho. The Member for Sahtu.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

The results of the recorded vote are 17 in favour, zero opposed, and zero abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had third reading.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Finance Minister.

BILL 4:  
INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT,  
OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES, 2024-2025,  
CARRIED

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 4, Interim Appropriation Act, Operations Expenditures, 2024-2025, be read for the third time. Mr. Speaker, I request a recorded vote.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. Question is shall Bill 4 be read for a third time. The Minister requested a recorded -- all those in favour, please stand.

### RECORDED VOTE

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Glen Rutland):** The Member for Yellowknife Centre. The Member for Kam Lake. The Member for Hay River North. The Member for Hay River South. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. The Member for Nunakput. The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. The Member for Deh Cho. The Member for Sahtu. The Member for Yellowknife Centre. The Member for Range Lake. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. The Member for Monfwi. The Member for Frame Lake. The Member for Great Slave. The Member for



Mackenzie Delta. The Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Results of the recorded vote are 17 in favour, zero opposed, and zero abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 4 has had its third reading.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Glen Rutland):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 27th, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
5. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Returns to Oral Questions
  - Oral Question 62-20(1): Consultation with Members of the Legislative Assembly on Policies and Strategies
8. Acknowledgements
9. Oral Questions
10. Written Questions
11. Returns to Written Questions
12. Replies to the Commissioner's Address
13. Petitions
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 3: Carbon Tax Repeal Act
19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Minister's Statement 4-20(1): 2023 Wildfire Season Review and Planning for the 2024 Season
- Minister's Statement 5-20(1): Emergency Management Preparation
- Minister's Statement 17-20(1): Reaching Average \$10 a day Child Care in the NWT
- Tabled Document 29-20(1): Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 27th, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

