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Monday, February 21, 2011

Pages 5979 - 6032

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

**Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories**

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker

Hon. Paul Delorey

(Hay River North)

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(Great Slave)

Mr. Tom Beaulieu

(Tu Nedhe)

Ms. Wendy Bisaro

(Frame Lake)

Mr. Bob Bromley

(Weledeh)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

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*Minister responsible for the*

*NWT Power Corporation*

Mr. Norman Yakeleya

(Sahtu)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**Monday, February 21, 2011**

**Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

# Prayer

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers’ statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

# Ministers’ Statements

## MINISTER’S STATEMENT 112-16(5): MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Jackson Lafferty will be absent from the House today, tomorrow and Wednesday to attend the federal/provincial/territorial Education Ministers meeting in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members’ statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

# Members’ Statements

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON LOCAL AND TERRITORIAL LEARNING FAIRS

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, this week is NWT Education Week here in the Northwest Territories. It’s a great opportunity for us to recognize and highlight all the hard work that is being done by teachers, mentors and volunteers in the support of our children throughout the Northwest Territories. To that end, I’d like to talk a little bit about the recent Yellowknife and territorial learning fairs that have been held throughout the Northwest Territories over the last couple of months.

On February 11, 2011, I had the honour of judging at the Yellowknife Learning Fair which was held here at Mildred Hall School. I was blown away at the high quality of projects being presented, both from an historical and a science perspective. There were historical projects on a wide range of topics including Francois Paulette and Richard Van Camp, historical events such as The Lost Patrol and Vimy

Ridge, historical places such as The Wildlife Cafe and the CANOL Trail.

In addition, there was also a wide variety of science experiments ranging from the lifecycles of icebergs to the effects of oil spills on animals and birds. All of the projects were exceptional, Mr. Speaker.

This past weekend the award winning presentations at the community level came together in Yellowknife for the territorial competition. Although not a judge, I did go see a number of presentations and had an opportunity to talk to a lot of students. Once again, the projects were all excellent. Everyone I talked to about the projects and the event were thrilled by the experience. Students participating in these events should be very, very proud of all of their hard work and accomplishments. Their hard work does not go unnoticed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, children are our future. Events like these help them build knowledge, skills and abilities that help them succeed throughout their lives. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud all of the teachers, mentors and volunteers who have helped make events like the local and territorial learning fairs possible. Their dedication and contributions are key to the success of these types of events and to our students and the development of children throughout the Northwest Territories.

So thank you very much to each and every one of you. Your contributions are appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON TERRITORIAL ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDING STANDARDS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to establish territory-wide building standards to meet the cost and climate changes of today. Currently, this government builds to a standard 25 percent better than the national model building codes. The GNWT’s Good Building Practices for Northern Facilities 2009 guidebook establishes this standard as a condition of RFP for all territorial government construction.

Under its municipal authority, the City of Yellowknife has set similar high energy-efficiency standards. That’s the extent of mandatory energy efficiency standards in the NWT. Outside Yellowknife, all private construction and municipal facilities built with territorial money must meet only the lower national standard, a lot lower. There is no legal requirement to do better.

We could wait for each municipality to expensively enact their own local legislation, or this government could establish a single territorial standard under which all will benefit. That’s what they’ve done in the Yukon. Under that territory’s 2002 Building Standards Act, government has the authority to replace or modify the requirements of the National Building Code and require higher standards more suited to our northern realities.

Governments can lead change with a mixture of incentives and requirements. We missed the opportunity to do this under the New Deal when every community was provided with infrastructure dollars and gas tax funds and had to develop energy plans but no standards were required. With regulation and the right support, it is in the public interest to reduce costs and climate impacts while helping protect citizens and communities from oil’s inevitable price climb.

We’ve put our own house in order, now it’s time to make sure all NWT buildings follow our lead. At a minimum this must be a proposed and evaluated tool in our Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. The Minister of MACA has repeatedly been on record as being willing to let communities and private enterprises continue to build low-efficiency infrastructure and have the public bear the costs.

I will be asking the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources what actions his department has taken to assess and move to adopt this common-sense tool in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy being developed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking today on the devolution agreement-in-principle, specifically on the way in which it was signed by the Premier and the INAC Minister. I raised this at the start of this session.

Although the Premier points out that the AIP has been years in the making, from the perspective of the Dehcho leadership, the signing of the AIP was still done too quickly and without adequate consultation. The Dehcho and other Dene leaders feel it is the great big giveaway by the feds and a great big land grab by the GNWT.

Leaderships do not feel that their concerns were heard or acted upon. “With or without you” is the message that the Dene people are getting from the Premier and the INAC Minister. This is not a good message to send when supposedly building partnerships.

As a Regular Member I am frustrated because I am outside the process. I’ve never had the opportunity to vote on the AIP itself or publicly debate it. The Premier needed Cabinet’s approval to sign the AIP but did not need the approval of this Assembly or Regular Members. In fact, this Assembly will not be asked to vote on devolution until implementation legislation comes forward and that will be years from now, when the deal is essentially done.

It is a shame we are not in position today to celebrate together a milestone of transferring powers to the North and to focus our energies on the details of the AIP and our mandates for negotiating the final agreement, because there is a lot in there that we should be paying attention to. Instead, because of the Premier’s and INAC Minister’s actions and high-handedness in dealing with Dene leaders, the debate we have to focus on today is about the process in which the AIP was signed and how we can possibly work together with the broken trust and bad feelings that have been created.

National Chief of the Dene Nation Bill Erasmus said in today’s News/North: “The GNWT and Canada must engage the Dene in a process that promises to build relationships, instead of creating tension and distrust.”

We owe it to all Northerners to work hard in creating a North with all Northerners. There must be a solution other than using the stick-and-carrot approach.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON TAMERLANE VENTURES INC. AND PINE POINT MINING PROJECT

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tamerlane Ventures Inc. is an exploration and development mining company with advanced base metal development projects in Canada and Peru. The company is working towards bringing the world-class lead-zinc Pine Point property back into production in the Northwest Territories.

The company’s primary focus is the Pine Point project consisting of the Pine Point mine, which was the largest and most profitable base metal mine in Canadian history. The Pine Point project hosts over five billion pounds of lead and zinc in the ground and Tamerlane Ventures believes it will once again become one of Canada’s great mines.

Mr. Speaker, as with any project like this, there are many issues around timing and prices of commodities, and Tamerlane believes at this time the things are aligned, these different necessities are aligned and it is time to move on with this project. Just recently Tamerlane said that they have had some good news in their search for financing for their project and are in the process of signing proposals at this time and there will be further details coming about this in the next few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, for Hay River, this is good news. Tamerlane believes that with the effective implementation of the company’s HR management program and the assistance of government agencies, this project could generate a considerable number of employment and training opportunities for residents in the South Slave region. During the construction phase, up to 65 positions will be available. During the mining operation of the company, up to 227 positions will be available. Some of the specific training and employment opportunities would be construction equipment operation and maintenance, mining equipment operation and maintenance, administration positions, safety systems workers, first aid and emergency response teams and many other related jobs.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, there are always hurdles and obstacles for a project of this nature. One that has been discussed and we’ve heard some about is the cost of power in the Northwest Territories to operate their facility. I believe that there has been discussion that has gone on between the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Tamerlane on the issue of the cost of power.

Mr. Speaker, I’m here today to sound the alarm. Hay River needs something and we need something soon. If there’s any way that this government can do something to help see this project come to fruition and support it in a similar way they did for diamond secondary processing for Yellowknife, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SCALES

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about the public housing rent scale. Mr. Speaker, the current rent scale used by the NWT Housing Corporation in the administration of public housing does not work for the tenants in smaller communities. Mr. Speaker, as I’ve said many times in the past, communities in Tu Nedhe have employment rates well below 40 percent and nothing should serve as a deterrent to work. As it stands now, the rent scale is a major deterrent for people who wish to work.

Mr. Speaker, if a person in public housing gets a job, up to 30 percent of their gross income can be charged as rent. Therefore, a working person sees very little benefit from the work. Income tax takes 25 percent and in some cases child care expenses could be as much as $50 a day, but even at $30 a day it would cost the working person $300 biweekly. Mr. Speaker, depending on the nature of the job, there could be employment related costs such as specialized clothing.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Housing Corporation must establish a maximum rent in small, non-market communities that have employment rates with percentages in the thirties and forties. Mr. Speaker, the NWT Housing Corporation can establish maximum rents in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution of around $600 or $700 and this will ensure that people remain at work. Mr. Speaker, if the rent maxes out at $600 or $700 instead of $1,800, more people will remain at work and pay $600 or $700; versus being charged $1,800, they quit their jobs and go back to paying $32 a month and drawing income support.

Mr. Speaker, if this works for 10 percent of the public housing tenants, it will bring about $1.5 million into the administration of the public housing and it will save around $2.5 million in income support payments. Mr. Speaker, if the Housing Corporation puts this policy in place, it will improve the government’s overall fiscal position by about $4 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, this type of policy change is needed to accommodate any sort of policy designed to increase employment in smaller communities.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Without this policy, people in public housing cannot afford to work. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Housing today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON GNWT MEASURES TO STIMULATE LOCAL ECONOMIES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Similar to my other colleagues in the House today, I think we have to realize that our economies are not the same with larger centres and regional centres, more importantly, looking at the social and economic situation we find ourselves especially in a lot of our rural communities where unemployment is surpassing 40 percent and almost 45 percent in some cases. But, Mr. Speaker, this government has to realistically look at its preferential policies, procedures and do whatever we can to stimulate our local economies such as the contracts for housing or government service contracts with Public Works and Services, more importantly ensuring that we try to sustain a local economy by providing those programs and services and stimulating by government policies and procedures especially in areas such as sole source or negotiating contracts with local tenders for local contractors to be tendered locally. I just saw in the paper in regards to an enterprise in Hay River where the contractor positions for government employees are within a 50-kilometre radius for those jobs that are being offered. That is the type of stuff we have to look at to ensure that the capital expenditures in our communities remain in our communities and stimulate the local economies.

Mr. Speaker, we have a major downturn in the economic area regardless if it is oil and gas, tourism or, in most cases, not really seeing the benefit of the large projects we see in the larger centres which we depend on these seasonal economies to stimulate the economies of a lot of our communities in which people depend on that work as part of their livelihood instead of income support where we are bringing in some $500 a month to a tune of $7,000 a year. Mr. Speaker, but that is reality. Our people in our communities are having to depend on income support as the means of sustaining themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions to the Minister of the Housing Corporation why it is that he has not supported any negotiated contracts in the Mackenzie Delta since he has become Minister. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS POLICY

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about gender-based analysis. Promoting the equality of men and women in our society and government is a good thing. Our current Premier has promised policy action on this particular matter. A number of my constituents were initially very excited about the news that this government was going to do something, but yet actions seem to have fizzled.

We all know that the GNWT policy Equality of Men and Women in the NWT is 23 years old, Mr. Speaker. Recommendations to update it were promised by this Premier back in 2009 and 2010 budget fiscal years. The Premier promised a position paper by the end of 2009 on using gender-based analysis in this particular government. To my knowledge, as of today we still have not seen that commitment fulfilled.

I fast forward to today, Mr. Speaker, more than a year and a half later. As I understand it, Cabinet has apparently received recommendations for updating the equality policy, but Members and the public have yet to see some of these recommendations. I will say I am glad to hear the government has started training for particular employees on gender-based analysis. However, have we required management to take this particular training? Has the government done any work to identify key staff and key positions who will be proficient and certainly need the training of gender-based analysis?

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we are using tools on gender-based analysis to improve policy, programs and services we offer through our government. As I understand it, very few men are taking gender analysis training, Mr. Speaker. For a fact, from my research, three out of 44 were men so far, including, of course, the advanced course that is offered here in March. Mr. Speaker, what is interesting about this is that is less than 7 percent of the participants that are taking gender-based analysis training.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that everyone can learn a lot from this particular program. Interest may be waning, I wonder, by the government on this particular case. Six courses were offered in 2010 and one was cancelled. Mr. Speaker, again, this is causing me to raise some concern on this specific training that I believe is needed. Sadly, in 2011, four courses were offered in January and February and all were cancelled due to low enrolment. Mr. Speaker, I am just worried that the government may be losing its enthusiasm and this policy may be quietly leaving the back door of the Assembly. I want to make sure that this is highlighted properly and I want to be clear: is the government committed to this policy and how are they making sure it works?

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Premier later today on what he is doing to make sure that this policy doesn’t get swept under the carpet and we are promoting it further. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE REGIONAL LEARNING FAIR

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you’ve already heard, today is the beginning of Education Week so I’m going to tell an education story. For two years in a row now I’ve been privileged to be a judge at the Yellowknife Regional Learning Fair. Two Fridays ago I was at Mildred Hall School hard at work doing just that. The Yellowknife Regional Learning Fair was a gathering of students ranging from grade 4 to grade 8. Each of the students at the regional fair was a winner in their own right from the learning fair competition held at their own school, and now they were competing for the regional title in either science or heritage.

It was an invigorating, exciting and fun day for me. I was thoroughly impressed by all the projects and especially those I was privileged to judge. The students represented all of Yellowknife Education District No. 1 K to 8 schools and Weledeh School from the Yellowknife Catholic Schools district. The kids were excited, they were nervous, they were proud. Their enthusiasm for the project that they had produced was evident and it was infectious. We have extremely smart kids in our schools, Mr. Speaker. They are articulate and knowledgeable, and pleasant and courteous to boot.

The Yellowknife Regional Historical Fair winners competed again this past week in the first ever Pan-Territorial Historical Fair. That competition had 30 students from across the NWT and, for the first time, 10 students from each of the Yukon and Nunavut presenting their projects for judging.

I want to congratulate everyone involved in all the learning fairs, and there’s many to mention. Organizing and producing a fair at any level is a big project and it takes a lot of work. My thanks and congratulations go to the teachers at each student’s school, they’re the ones who get the kids started; to each school’s learning fair organizing team, they make sure that each school has their own competition. Thanks also to the school which hosted the regional competition, in this case Mildred Hall School, which put up with the disruption of students, parents and judges coming and going all day long, and to the team of educators who organized the territorial competition. It was held at the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre and they put on a great show. Last, but not least, thanks to the parents of the participants for the assistance and guidance they provided to the students as the project progressed from an idea to a finished product.

Mr. Speaker, did I forget the students? I did. Congratulations must go to each and every student who participated in a learning fair, no matter what level it was. You all did a marvellous job.

Mr. Speaker, to everyone involved in education in the NWT, I want to quote the NWT Teachers’ Association slogan, “Thank you for making a difference.”

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

## MEMBER’S STATEMENT ON NWT WATER PROTECTION STRATEGY

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clean, fresh water is the Northwest Territories most precious resource. It supports all of life. We have lots of water, Mr. Speaker, and it’s the defining future of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we must protect our water from the upstream pollution and the polluters. Mr. Speaker, the operations in the Alberta tar sands are poisoning our water. In the last four years the amount of arsenic, mercury, lead and other toxins have increased by 26 percent in the tailings ponds that are located in our watershed. The tar sands also create air pollution that poisons the earth through rain and snow.

Mr. Speaker, we are in great danger. For example, the people in the North have noticed changes in the fish. Their flesh is soft and their livers are black. Mr. Speaker, there is something wrong with the water. We cannot wait and sit idle.

Mr. Speaker, a member of the new panel at the Alberta government appointed to monitor the environmental effects of the tar sands has resigned because she felt there was a lack of integrity. There was not enough Aboriginal or scientific representation on the panel. Mr. Speaker, the 16th Legislative Assembly is spending close to $6 million to protect our territorial waters. We need aggressive transboundary negotiations. We need cumulative impact monitoring and water monitoring throughout the Northwest Territories. We need to make sure our own industry isn’t further destroying the environment.

Mr. Speaker, long ago people built fortresses to protect their territory. They patrolled their land and sharpened their weapons. Mr. Speaker, the world doesn’t work like that anymore. Instead we make laws and negotiate agreements. Our Water Strategy needs to be our fortress.

We need water monitoring to patrol our land. We need tough laws and tough negotiators. We need to stand up and say “no more” to dumping garbage into our waters. We need to protect our waters and we need to do it now.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

# Oral Questions

## QUESTION 493-16(5): PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SCALE

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member’s statement I spoke of the public housing rent scale in non-market communities acting as a bit of a deterrent for people working. I have some questions for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. Does the Minister agree that public housing rent scale is different between market communities and non-market communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is obviously a difference and we all realize that between all the communities in the Northwest Territories as to how the rent is calculated. Having said that, I do agree with the Member that there is a difference in the amount of the rent scale.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Just to add a little to that, I was looking for more of an amount. Not a specific amount, but does the Minister agree that the average public housing paid, average rent paid for public housing in market communities is higher than the non-market communities?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** There are many things taken into consideration when they calculate the rent scale and a lot of things are factored into coming up with the amount of rent that the folks pay in the communities. I do know that there is a bit of a discrepancy at the regional level. That’s one of the reasons the Housing Corporation is entertaining the idea of going to a regional rent scale. That would benefit some of the smaller communities that are maybe a few minutes away from some of the larger communities and the rent calculated in those communities is quite different.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I’d like to ask the Minister if there’s a policy that prevents the Minister from establishing maximum rents and replacing economic rents with maximum rents in non-market communities.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** That’s one of the things we are looking at doing, is a rent scale review. We’ve tied it in with the Shelter Policy review because we feel that this is one that will be a way forward document for the NWT Housing Corporation.

We’ve heard many suggestions from Members, we’ve heard many suggestions from members of the public and all the general assemblies that we go to as to how we should calculate rent. I can assure the Member and all Members that we’ll look at any way possible to try and be fair and just be sure that all tenants from across the Northwest Territories are treated the same and treated fairly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That’s good news. Will the Minister direct his staff to look at this very specific point, and that very specific point is that non-market communities use economic rents? Economic rents are established to recover costs. People never pay that, because there’s no work. Will the Minister direct his staff to look at the feasibility of establishing a maximum rent for all non-market communities?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We are in the process of reviewing the way we deliver public housing and the way we calculate rents and that. I can assure the Member that this is one that we will continue to have a look at.

When we talk about the maximum rent, there is a maximum rent. There is the economic rent and very few people in the Northwest Territories pay the full economic rent, as the Member points out, because of the lack of work. Even those that are working, very few pay maximum rent. I think we have maybe 12 across the Northwest Territories out of 2,400 units that we deliver. I think that’s a pretty good percentage. We do what we can to ensure that all tenants of the NWT Housing Corporation and public housing portfolio are treated the same.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

## QUESTION 494-16(5): GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member’s statement today I talked about gender-based analysis and highlighted that there is some training going on there, but I’m still looking to see some policy update, as are a number of my constituents and the public waiting to see that. My question to the Premier would be: when can Members of this House and the public see the updates to the 1998 equity policy in the form of the gender-based analysis?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work that we’ve done around the gender basis issue has been one that, as the Member has pointed out, doing some workshops and training amongst our staff within the Government of the Northwest Territories to make everyone more aware as we look at the work we do and how it influences decision-making.

**MR. HAWKINS:** When can Members see a copy of that particular policy and initiative that I’ve referred to, which is the gender-based analysis? When can the public get a chance to have a look at it and see it implemented into government policy?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Again, the work that we’ve done has been more about the training, getting it through to our staff with the help of other departments like the Department of Human Resources to help us in the training and getting the knowledge out there. I’d have to get back to the department to see if in fact I will be able to have a policy to bring back to the Members.

**MR. HAWKINS:** The Minister had mentioned workshops. I’m very curious if the Minister -- sorry, in this particular case the Premier -- has the Premier on this particular subject had people identify certain positions, whether they’re in policy or programming, that should take gender-based analysis? To reflect that, as I understand it, the courses or workshops have been cancelled going forward. Is this initiative stalled, or been stopped completely?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** We do have staff throughout a number of departments, Executive, we do have people who share the workload and help us in dealing with the issue of gender-based analysis.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answers from the Premier and I’m just trying to get a sense of whether this particular initiative has stalled with all the training cancelled going forward. What is the Premier doing to ensure that the training gets back up and running and we can see some actual results in our territorial programming?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** I don’t believe it’s stalled.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

## QUESTION 495-16(5): DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier with some questions related to my Member’s statement. I know the AIP agreement on devolution, there are some firm agreements in place, but I think without getting on board, there is still some distrust by Aboriginal organizations. They do want to review it but they cannot get access to the resources to assist them unless they actually sign on board. Has the Premier or Cabinet discussed this and what is the best way to address their concerns?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of the agreement-in-principle and trying to get the information out on top of the years of discussions around the negotiation of the agreement-in-principle piece we’ve looked at and sent letters out to the regional leadership and invited them to contact us to go over the agreement-in-principle and the issues they may have out of that and look at sharing in the funding of those meetings.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** The Premier can correct me if I’m wrong, but I thought funding and resources available for discussions with devolution was tied to actually signing on board with the GNWT with regard to the agreement-in-principle.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** There are two pots of funding that start to flow upon signing of the agreement-in-principle. That is tied specifically to some of the work that would be prepared as groups prepare for negotiations, mandates and so on, to do the background work. The work we’re talking about doing is looking at the agreement-in-principle itself, to give the leadership and community members a better idea of just what the agreement-in-principle is. Of course, to share in the funding that’s available to Aboriginal groups, they need to sign on and that would allow the federal government to sit with them to then begin flowing those dollars.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** I think the Aboriginal groups are looking at what they want is the resources to have a real good look at the agreement-in-principle to see if it’s something that’s consistent with their priorities and principles, yet they have to sign on board to access those resources. Has the Premier given any thought of any other way of assisting our Aboriginal governments to review the agreement-in-principle other than by signing on board?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Well, how to put this in a way that is respectful of all the processes that we’ve been a part of since 2001 when the discussion of devolution began to take hold through the Intergovernmental Forum. Through that time since 2002 from a framework to where we are today between the federal government and ourselves, we’ve put almost, I think, I’ll have to get the accurate figure but I know we’ve put, between the federal government and ourselves, almost $8 million on the table to work with the groups around the agreement-in-principle. I’ll get the accurate information from a GNWT perspective.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I know that myself as MLA and Regular Members on this side want a strong North for all Northerners and I think one of the best ways we can do it is to try to be flexible, go to our Aboriginal organizations, provide some resources without actually having them sign on board, so that they can have an independent look at the AIP to address all of the concerns that they’ve been saying for the past month.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** The process both from the federal government and ourselves has been one to help the organizations and governments to the best way possible so that they can be involved in this and help frame up that agreement-in-principle. Our share of the Government of the Northwest Territories contribution has been $3.9 million since 2001 to this year. The Government of the Northwest Territories Executive department actually reduced our budget to go through our cost-savings exercise over the last couple of years and reduced the funding and the devolution portfolio. For example, what we’re doing right now is trying to come up with some funds to help with the regions and looking at the AIP so that they can feel comfortable with the information we’ve been presenting.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

## QUESTION 496-16(5): NWT WATER PROTECTION STRATEGY

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke about the Alberta tar sands and the pollution that’s coming down from that one specific project. There are also other projects in Alberta, B.C., and Saskatchewan that are also contributing to the pollution of the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister of Environment about monitoring locations along the Great Slave Lake or down the Mackenzie River in terms of the quality of water. Are they checking along the watershed?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of course there are a number of monitoring stations all the way up, down to the Arctic, but the reality is a recent federal panel found that the monitoring as it relates to the oil sands is not sufficient, that it’s confused, that there are new mandates needed. Then Minister Baird announced that they were going to put together a plan and a board that’s going to set up a cutting-edge monitoring protocol. That work is underway. I think they gave themselves 90 days or thereabouts, and that work is underway. There’s a recognition that more has to be done, that the federal government and especially Environment Canada has a lead role to play. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, if this new founding has come to light through the federal government, I’m not too sure when the 90 days starts or when it’s running out. What can we do more to give a push to the federal government to make sure these monitoring stations are in place and that they’re monitoring the effects of the Alberta tar sands, amongst other things, that are coming down into the Great Slave Lake or the Mackenzie River? What can we do to push the federal government to get on this right away?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We have the good fortune to have one of our very capable staff, Dr. Erin Kelly, who is going to be involved in the process. As well, we’re going to be talking to Minister Kent about the scope of the project to make sure that they take a broad look at the monitoring that needs to be done and not narrow it down so that it becomes less than adequate. That work is underway, and through our Water Strategy and the negotiations we have on our transboundary, we’re also going to be pursing that very important issue as well. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, could the Minister invite Minister Kent along the Slave River, the Slave Lake and down the Mackenzie River, stopping at each section of the river to drink the water, look at the fish, look for himself to really point out the seriousness of the pollution coming down the river? Can the Minister invite the Minister of Environment of the federal government to come down through the Great Slave Lake and to the Mackenzie River?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** In point of fact, Minister Kent is in the North for the next couple of days and we will have an opportunity to pass on those very strong concerns to Minister Kent. He will be, as well, taking advantage of the opportunity to visit parts of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, certainly there are some concerns raised by the people along the Mackenzie, in terms of the fish that they are seeing now in their nets. I want to ask if the Minister would raise, again, this issue to the Minister if he could come down during the summer, come down the Mackenzie River, look at the fish, live on the Mackenzie River and see how serious this issue is, or just take him to court for polluting our water? I mean, that’s how serious it is. So I want to ask the Minister that.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The Member has offered two fairly significant extremes: one to invite him up to live in the North and camp on a river, or take him to court. I appreciate the intensity of the Member’s concern and we’re going to look for a more happy medium where we’ll talk to the Minister, we’ll have meetings with him and we’ll raise the concerns about what’s happening south of our borders and the need for strong transboundary agreements and proper monitoring on those major developments such as the oil sands. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I’m asking the Minister to invite the Minister to come up and live with us along the Mackenzie River for a couple of days, maybe a week, you know, then to see if we get his attention. Right now the federal government is doing nothing. People along the Mackenzie River are complaining about the fish, the water. He doesn’t seem to care. The only way we can get some attention from the federal government is to take him to court. I’ll be very surprised if he makes an announcement in a week or so to putting a water monitoring station along the Mackenzie River, and tell that to the elders whose fish are soft and the livers are black. Tell him that. This is serious stuff here. That’s what I want to ask the Minister here, if he would give this message to the Minister here.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** We agree with the Member that this is a very serious issue. It’s been one of the driving priorities of Environment and Natural Resources during the life of this Assembly, has been to bring forward the Water Strategy to engage with the federal family to do the work necessary.

I must give credit where credit is due. INAC at the regional level has been extremely supportive of our efforts. We are going to be meeting with Minister Kent and one of the issues on our agenda is to discuss water concerns that we do have, monitoring issues, transboundary issues, and the need to take all the steps necessary to protect the interests of Northerners and keep our water clean and pure for all time. Thank you

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

## QUESTION 497-16(5): TERRITORIAL ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDING STANDARDS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions, as I mentioned in my statement earlier today, are for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. I want to follow up. Obviously, MACA has continuously refused progressive action on building standards, actions that will demonstrably benefit everyone both in terms of costs and adaptation to climate change. I’m wondering, Mr. Speaker, what has the Minister done to ensure this common sense measure is incorporated as one of the core tools in the new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA is working with communities. They do have an investment, as does this government, through our various boards and agencies and departments to work with communities, to work with all aspects of government services and programs to look to the best building standards possible. In some cases we have direct authority. In some cases we can use moral suasion in how we do our capital plans. MACA is there along with the Energy Alliance, Public Works and all the other arms of government.

The Member knows and has been intimately involved in the process for the Greenhouse Gas Strategy, and as it moves through its process and the time that’s laid out and the steps to be followed, that one of the issues that’s going to be there, in addition to the broader issue of emissions, is going to be standards, energy standards, what is the most appropriate standard and what is the best way to enforce that. As that Greenhouse Gas Strategy comes forward and reaches its conclusion, it will be up to ourselves to ensure that it contains and addresses all those issues. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is the lead Minister here for this strategy and participants. They’ve held workshops. Participants have brought forward these very measures. They have said we need better energy efficiency standards and building energy efficiency standards provided as a tool in this Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. Is the Minister proposing to include that and what work is he doing to measure what that will get us in greenhouse gas reductions? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Within government there is already clear evidence of our commitment to the proper energy-efficient building standards both in the commercial and residential areas. There is a process we have committed to in terms of consultation and working with the public and stakeholder groups to get their feedback, to get their best advice, and we’re going to do that. It’s not a question of myself, as Minister, standing up and trying to rule by fiat, which does not tend to work that well in a consensus government environment. I’m very sensitive to the Member’s concerns and when we bring this Greenhouse Gas Strategy through its process to fruition, we will be collectively making sure that it addresses all these key areas. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I’m appreciative of the Minister’s sensitivity to my interests here. Mr. Speaker, I’d like to refer to the National Roundtable on Environment and Economy report recently released, wherein it was pointed out that the resilience of northern infrastructure systems will be essential for sustainable regional development and forsake our national and northern security interest for all Canadians. They note in there that some of the constraints on the whole process is lack of clear standards and lack of guidance, especially for permafrost regions where structural design standards or guidelines are totally missing. They go on to talk about the lack of coordination and so on. Given that the Minister of MACA is continually refusing to act on this, and I know exactly what the department is doing and not doing on this, I don’t appreciate the defence by this Minister. I wonder if this Minister will work with that department to get this work done. Mahsi.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, we as a government intend to come forward with a Greenhouse Gas Strategy that will address all of these critical areas and it may, in fact, become the position of the government, if not this government maybe the 17th Assembly, that we are going to look at building standards that are applied across the Territory for all construction and all levels of government.

At this point, we have the system that we just talked about. The work is underway to see where the improvements are necessary in terms of regulation and governance, and before this strategy is finalized, it will be up to ourselves, myself and the Member for Weledeh and all the other MLAs in this House, to make sure that it addresses what we think are the needs and priorities of the government or the people in the Northwest Territories and this Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister’s comments again here. I think I will look forward to that work. Basically what we need to be doing is determining here what gains can be achieved with this move. That is the responsibility of this Minister at this moment in time so we can use this tool appropriately and responsibly. Does the Minister agree that the standards we have for the GNWT that allow us to benefit so much should be available and made available to all members of the Northwest Territories for all infrastructure? Mahsi.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I think it behooves us all to have as energy-efficient building standards for all people in the Northwest Territories as possible. The issue is going to be to sort through the regulatory and government’s issues to, in fact, be able to allow ourselves to do that so that we, in fact, as the Member indicated, will have a common standard that is as high as the government sets for itself. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

## QUESTION 498-16(5): GNWT MEASURES TO STIMULATE LOCAL ECONOMIES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, there are high pockets of unemployment in the Northwest Territories, especially in rural and remote communities. For a housing unit, the cost of $300,000 to $400,000 can go a long way to generate jobs and employment opportunities in our communities. This government has government policies and procedures to deal with that type of opportunity so that those dollars remain in the communities and some of those negotiated contracts, sole-source contracts, local tenders. Mr. Speaker, the whole approach on negotiated contracts is for the local organization in regards to community development corporation, local contractor getting the support of the local MLA and the local government to put forward a negotiated contract to the Minister to take to Cabinet and let the Cabinet determine if that contract should go or not go in those particular communities with the support of the MLA and the local government.

I would like to ask the Minister of Housing why hasn’t he taken any negotiated contracts to Cabinet knowing that this is a policy in government and why are you not following the policy.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have taken a request for negotiated contract to Cabinet. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, my understanding of all the letters that I have submitted to the Minister asking for negotiated contracts, not once did I get a response back to those letters asking for negotiated contracts that those contracts went to Cabinet or have been rejected outright by the Minister. Why have you not passed on the message that those contracts have been dealt with in Cabinet and when can I see those letters? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is asking me why I haven’t brought a negotiated contract forward to Cabinet. I have brought requests forward. It was last year. He didn’t say where it was. If he meant in his particular riding, then I haven’t brought anything forward. I would make recommendations to Cabinet on whether to proceed with the negotiated contract or not. We are following policy and the policy states quite clearly that a negotiated contract is to help the local contractor build capacity so they can compete in an open market. I follow these things quite closely and I have enough confidence in local contractors, not only for their ability to do the work but their ability to compete in an open market. Having said that, we have fulfilled our obligations as a government as far as a negotiated contract policy goes. We have a lot more contractors out there getting their start through negotiated contracts, that are able to bid in a competitive market and are actually doing quite better bidding in a competitive market than they are getting negotiated contracts. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, again, I just spoke to the president of the Aklavik Community Corporation in regards to the Aklavik proposal which went forward to the Minister and myself in which it clearly stipulated a contract that they were looking at has gone to an Inuvik company. Again, all we are going to see are headlights coming from Inuvik and driving back to Inuvik at five o’clock. Again, the companies that are benefitting from these contracts in our communities are Inuvik companies. I would like to know, is there a guarantee that those contract dollars will remain in the community and how they benefit the community where those contracts are being let. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the particulars of this case are. As far as I know, we do have some units that are slated for construction in the Member’s riding, one of the communities in the Member’s riding that he pointed out. We have been receiving letters requesting negotiated contracts. One of our policies says that if you get two or more requests for a negotiated contract, then we have to evaluate that. The one the Member is speaking of in particular, I am not quite sure which one that is. If it is one that we just awarded recently, I don’t know that. I have seen no requests for negotiated contract for that particular part. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just gave the Minister two letters lately from Fort McPherson and from Aklavik in regards to housing contracts and put in without local tendering or basically allow for some sort of local preferential treatment be treated for these units going into my constituents. I would like to ask the Minister, can he assure me that those contracts will have a fair airing that will go to Cabinet and the Cabinet will make the decision to go or not to go in regards to the contracts in my riding.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we are still in the process of determining how we are going to procure those particular contracts. There has been no decision made yet. We look at all the information we get. Again I say, if we get two or more letters for a negotiated contract, one of them may have the Member’s support, one may not. How do we determine? The thing is, the contractors now all have the ability. Again, it goes back to policy. The purpose of the policy is to allow those contractors that are just starting up, trying to get their foot in the door, an opportunity to do so. If they prove that they are able to do the work and they are able to bid in a competitive market, then we have fulfilled our obligation. We are starting to see more and more local contractors that are doing that. They are competing with contractors from outside the community. They are given preferential treatment just for being situated in the community. It is a 5 percent preferential treatment, 15 percent northern, so they have proven that they are able to compete. I can assure the Member that no decision has been made on these particular ones that he is filed the letters on. We will have a look at them. It will be at ministerial discretion. I will be able to make a recommendation to Cabinet as to whether we proceed or not with the negotiated contract. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

## QUESTION 499-16(5): PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I have some questions for the Minister in regards to the draft Wildlife Act. One of the clauses of the draft act speaks to the power of the Minister to establish conservation areas. The Minister knows from both me and from submissions made by various organizations that this is a concern and particularly for mining industries and companies. As a government, I believe the GNWT states that we want both economic development and the preservation of the environment, so I’d like to ask the Minister what percentage of land does the GNWT intend to keep open and accessible for economic development. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That particular clause that the Member references has been amended so that any plan to make any areas conservation areas or to withdraw any land will be decided on by Cabinet. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I didn’t hear the answer to the question there. I’d like to know if the GNWT has a policy or has any kind of an idea in their mind... Does GNWT, as a government or as a Cabinet, have a percentage of land that they intend to keep open and accessible for economic development? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. That’s not really specific or germane to the Wildlife Act. It is a discussion that we’ve had when we’ve talked about land use for example with the Dehcho Land Use Plan and other areas. As we look at finalizing our land use framework, we will be dealing more precisely with that particular issue. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you. I’d like to say to the Minister that I guess we have to agree to disagree, because I think the Wildlife Act is impacted through conservation areas on economic development, and particularly mining exploration and mining operations. I have heard that organizations in discussion with this government have been advised that some 45 percent of our lands will be kept open for economic development. In my mind, that’s far too large a number and I’d like to know from the Minister if that’s accurate. Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. The Member and I will have to agree to disagree. The issue of land quantum of what’s going to be available for economic development is not part of the Wildlife Act, which is designed to look at wildlife management and wildlife issues. That issue will be dealt with and is being dealt with as we look at some of the broader discussion areas like the land use framework that we’re talking about and as we sit down on a region-by-region basis once again in areas like the Deh Cho or the Sahtu and the Gwich’in where land use plans are being worked on. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m struggling with the Minister’s evasion of my question and he’s taking it quite literally that I’m talking only about the Wildlife Act. I’m asking what percentage of lands within the total area of the NWT is liable to be open and accessible for economic development. If some 50 percent or 45 or 55 percent of our lands are being withheld for conservation or environmental protection or whatever, Protected Areas Strategy, what effect does the Minister feel this is going to have on our ability to be a growing and economically vibrant Territory?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you. That’s the challenge for all of us as we look at protecting the environment, the land, the water and the animals and balancing that with the resource development and economic development. When you talk about making land available for resource development, there is a number of different levels to that. There is land that’s taken up by communities. There’s land taken up for resource development. There are lands taken up for other reasons. So we’re going to make sure that we strive for that balance, and in some of the regions like the Deh Cho, there are figures being used in terms of the land quantum.

The Member indicates she’s been talking to a number of folks who have given her numbers. Well, as a government we don’t have a territorial-wide number that we’re saying has to be kept free for resource development or a particular number of land and land quantum that has to be put aside. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

## QUESTION 500-16(5): GNWT PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESSES

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier. Open, transparent and meaningful public consultation is critical to the operations of a public government. It must exist. Both prior to being an MLA and since being an MLA I’m concerned about the inconsistencies in public consultation that this government is administering. There seems to be a wide variety from information sessions to real public consultation. For certainty and for ongoing public consultations, I think it would be important for this government to develop protocols on what a public consultation is and which all departments, boards and agencies would be bound to. So my question for the Premier is: will he commit to, in the life of the 16th Assembly, develop with the Department of Executive a protocol on public consultations so that people know what a public consultation is, so it’s clear, so it’s transparent and so that people have confidence that their input is heard and recognized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories does have a consultation package in place. We worked through in Intergovernmental Affairs and the intergovernmental group as well as Aboriginal Affairs and Executive and Justice to look at a number of agreements around the country to inform all departments of our consultation requirements for our policies and legislation. Thank you.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I would like to thank the Premier for that response. I would like to ask the Minister to share that with committee. Even though it exists, my question still stands around the consistency. If you look across the government, there doesn’t seem to be consistency in application of public consultations. By way of example, the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission is on the workplace safety standards. Clearly, that’s public consultation and people’s input is being sought. The Wildlife Act, on the other hand, there’s a lot of concern that it’s not in there. So how is the Premier going to ensure consistency in public consultation processes throughout the Northwest Territories conducted by the Government of the Northwest Territories?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** If the Member is asking about the difference, different levels of consultation, we have a broad public consultation process for all the people of the Northwest Territories. If he’s drawing the difference between the Workers’ Safety and Compensation process as well as the Wildlife Act, quite clearly if you look at the Wildlife Act, that’s gone to every community in the Northwest Territories and has had broad consultation on that. On top of that, one of the other areas we have to fulfil is where there are land claim agreements and self-government agreements, that requires an additional level of consultation before we go to drafting legislation. So we match that as well. Thank you.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** There is concern about consistency in public consultation. If you go out into the public, the Wildlife Act is a prime example. I’m curious how the Premier can ensure the public that their input is being heard in all forms of public consultation, in particularly something like the Wildlife Act. What are we going to do to ensure that application is consistent and people’s voices are heard? This doesn’t mean the government has to agree with everything they hear. It is a public government, there are lots of people’s opinions, but we need to ensure people are heard and acknowledged. So how does the Premier intend to ensure consistency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** We do have a policy within the Government of the Northwest Territories on consultation. All departments have that and we ensure that we work with departments in fulfilling our commitments. As well, this Assembly has a process of doing that. Once legislation is introduced, there is a whole different forum for public consultation on that and bringing the bills back to this Assembly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

## QUESTION 501-16(5): GNWT CONTRACTING POLICIES TO STIMULATE SMALL COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

**MR. KRUTKO:** I would like to direct my questions to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I find it kind of odd that communities I represent, the whole capital expenditures extends to about $2.5 million and half of that is the formula funding we give to our communities for infrastructure projects. Most of that is housing. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we are in the neighbourhood of the riding the Premier represents and you’re talking about $70 million of capital expenditures. We have high unemployment in our communities. Forty-five percent unemployment is unheard of in my riding. The issue I have with this government is do we realistically look at the policies and procedures we have as government that would benefit communities, build capacity and make sure the dollars we spend as government for capital dollars stay in those communities. I’d like to ask the Premier why we are not following our policies and procedures when it comes to community capacity and negotiated contracts, sole-sourced contracts or local tenders so that they’re tendered locally in those communities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** We do follow our policies. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I believe they had followed policies, that’s why I have 45 percent unemployment in my riding, which I never had three years ago, but under the regime of this government, it has forced companies to leave my riding and go to operate out of Yellowknife and get work in the southern region because they can’t get work in their home communities. I’d like to ask the Premier if it’s fair that all the contractors doing work in my riding are coming from Inuvik who are getting $70 million of capital expenditures in that community and yet my communities are going hungry because of unemployment rates at 45 percent.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** When we put the facts on the table, for example Mackenzie Valley Construction in the region, in the Department of Transportation it accounts for almost 70 percent of the contract values both negotiated, public tenders, the whole process. So that comparison is difficult to do. On top of that, when we have large construction projects, that requires a certain level of commitment by the contractors to be able to build on that. We follow the policies there as well. I think the comparison of the Inuvik constituency versus the Aklavik or Mackenzie Delta constituency, the Member well knows that the schools in Inuvik have been on the books since 1995 and have been authorized by this Assembly to go forward in construction.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I also think we should note that a $100 million contract was let through a negotiated contract for the school in Inuvik. A hundred million dollars yet I can’t get a goddamned house built in my riding for $300,000.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

## QUESTION 502-16(5): INVESTIGATION OF AWARDING OF HOUSING CONTRACTS IN INUVIK REGION

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Finance. I’d like to ask the Minister of Finance if there can be a financial audit done in regard to the capital housing allocations in the Inuvik region and exactly why those allocations are not being spent in the communities they’re earmarked for and they’re benefitting the community of Inuvik by way of all the contractors receiving all the contracts. Could you check into that and see if there is a possibility of investigation to how those dollars are being let?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That’s a detailed question and I will review Hansard and, therefore, take the question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

## QUESTION 503-16(5): TAMERLANE VENTURES AND PINE POINT MINING PROJECT

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment today. I have received communication from the Minister. He advises me that he is aware of the economic downturn in Hay River and several different initiatives have been expedited. Things have been happening there. We need something that is going to have a large and long-lasting effect on the economy in Hay River.

We don’t have to think back very far to how many millions of dollars this government spent when we saw an opportunity for economy from the secondary diamond processing, when this government stepped up with loans, loan guarantees, training dollars, and it was all in the interest of putting people to work and enhancing the economy of this area for the most part.

I’d like to ask the Minister of ITI if his officials have had any communication with Tamerlane Ventures about some of the obstacles or challenges that they may be facing in getting ready to open a mine close to Hay River in the South Slave that would benefit our region greatly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We’re very pleased to hear that Tamerlane has received financing to go on to the next level, but more recently we haven’t been in any discussions. All the discussions we’ve had with Tamerlane have been before the economy took a downturn. At that time we were discussing the need for power and also other opportunities. Now that they have received financing, we’ll be quite prepared to go back and have the discussions with them.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** The name of the person who is on the ground in Hay River doing a lot of the presentations to the Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council and so on, is Randy Lewis. He has worked in the North for quite a number of years. I am going to ask the Minister if someone in his department, perhaps the deputy minister or someone at that level, could take the proactive move to contact Mr. Lewis and personally have ITI updated on where the Tamerlane project is at and what any of the obstacles are. We need our government not to become involved in industry, but if there’s any way we can smooth any of the barriers or facilitate seeing this mining project get off the ground, it is much needed.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I agree with the Member that projects like these are much needed in the Northwest Territories, and we’d be quite pleased to meet with Mr. Lewis and I’ll direct our senior officials to contact him immediately and set up a meeting with him.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Before I go to Mr. Yakeleya for oral questions, the Chair distinctly heard some comments from the Member for Mackenzie Delta in his last line of questioning that were clearly unparliamentary to the Chair. I will ask the Member for Mackenzie Delta if he’s prepared to withdraw the remarks from the House and apologize to the House. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I apologize.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Could you please withdraw your remarks, Mr. Krutko?

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my remarks and I apologize.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

## QUESTION 504-16(5): MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Transportation some questions on the Mackenzie Valley Highway. I understand that the Minister met with some western Transportation Ministers and I wonder if they had any discussion on the National Transportation Policy on this dream of many people in the valley in terms of having some more concrete realities, I guess I could say, in terms of putting the steel to the ground to open up the Mackenzie Valley Highway. I know there were some project description reports done and I think we’re close to going to the second level.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did have the opportunity to have a discussion in a formal setting with the Westec members in Vancouver on Friday. We also had the opportunity to meet privately with Minister Strahl. We had a very good discussion. We wanted to take the occasion to bring forward the desire of this House to ensure the Minister is aware that we place a lot of priority on the Mackenzie Valley Highway and we also wanted to ensure that the Members of Westec are aware of our desire to move forward. We also had the opportunity to talk about other projects that were in the mix, and some applications that we had forwarded we are looking for some updates.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I want to ask the Minister, there’s support from this House and several industries across Canada and the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister if, when he had his discussion with Minister Strahl, can the Minister inform the House if in his discussions with Minister Strahl he came to why the federal government is not supporting the Mackenzie Valley Highway by putting serious dollars to build it even after the PDRs that we pretty well closed. Why isn’t the federal government supporting this?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** At this point I don’t believe that there’s any indication that the federal government is not supporting the project. I think many of the Members are aware that it’s a high priority for the people of the Northwest Territories. We try to have those kind of remarks pried out of the Minister. At this point he’s indicated that we’d have to wait to see what the federal budget announces, if there’s anything there. We followed and worked with the Minister over the last several months to ensure that he’s very familiar with this project. We’ve taken this recommendation that we direct our requests in writing to the federal Minister. We’ve done that. I think at this juncture we just have to wait and see what comes up in the budget.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the Minister can work with him more in terms of the priority here in the North of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. I want to ask the Minister, I know the Premier and Cabinet have made some other recommendations to the Norman Wells initiative on funding the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Can the Minister inform the House if other options have been exhausted? We’re actually begging the federal Minister to put some dollars so that we can have that highway, so that we can reduce the cost of living and strengthen the sovereignty of the Northwest Territories. Does the Minister have any more tricks up his sleeves to put more dollars to this highway?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** I think most Members of Cabinet and Members of this government have really been very straightforward with the federal Minister. He’s talked with a number of people; my Cabinet colleagues for sure. He understands where the priority lies with this government on the Mackenzie Valley Highway. He’s worked with us to fund some of the projects, the PDR work that’s necessary to compile all the backup information and baseline studies that are required. He allowed us to move forward more than any other government in our history on this project. I don’t know if there’s any way to make that any clearer. I’ve tried to be at all the federal meetings that he’s at, and every meeting I’ve gone to he’s been very good to us. He’s allowed us a separate side-table meeting in a private room to talk about issues that are challenging us and this is always number one. He’s certainly got the message. At this point I think it’s more in the Finance Minister’s hands rather than Minister Strahl, but that is something we won’t know until the budget is released.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

## QUESTION 505-16(5): NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS GUIDELINES AND REPORTING

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment regarding the Minister responsible for BIP and also under the negotiating contracting guidelines. Part of the guidelines requires that there be an annual reporting of these contracts. I’d like to ask the Minister if his department has worked with the contracting departments to ensure we’re complying with the negotiating contracting guidelines and ensuring that those reports are done annually.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Executive is responsible for negotiating contract guidelines and for reporting on negotiated contracts.

**MR. KRUTKO:** It was my understanding that the Department of ITI is responsible for implementing the guidelines to ensure that the completion of those reports are filed and done on a quarterly or annual basis as part of the contracts that are let by way of negotiated contracts. Can the Minister assure me that those reports will be available to myself and anyone who requires them?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We prepare an annual report of contracts over $5,000, and I would be quite pleased to present that report to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Maybe I can ask the Minister if he can check in regard to the negotiating contracting guidelines that clearly stipulates that there has to be annual reporting on those contracts on each additional year in regard to the type of employment, the number of northern hires, training, and also ensuring that the commitments made in those contracts, the negotiated contracts, are fulfilled. I’d just like to ask the Minister if he can check in his department under the guidelines to ensure that the guidelines are being followed. Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** The negotiated contract guidelines require that for every negotiated contract, the department issuing the negotiated contract is to file a report as to exactly the benefits the employment created, and that is filed with Cabinet. I will check for the Member to see if a list of negotiated contracts are put in a report and filed, and if they are, I will make sure that the Member gets a copy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question period has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

# Tabling of Documents

## TABLED DOCUMENT 144-16(5): LETTER FROM MAYOR OF TUKTOYAKTUK IN SUPPORT OF JOE GREENLAND CENTRE

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to table the document that is a letter of support from the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk to the Hamlet of Aklavik in regard to support for the Joe Greenland Centre.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members’ Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy; Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments’ Interim Response to “Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future”; Tabled Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts Over $5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010; Tabled Document 133-16(5), NWT Main Estimates 2011-2012; Tabled Document 135-16(5), Response to the Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act; Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act; Minister’s Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights; Minister’s Statement 88-16(5), Sessional Statement, with Mr. Abernethy in the chair.

By the authority given me as Speaker by Motion 31-16(5), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** I’d like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Before us today are tabled documents 4, 30, 38, 62, 75, 103, 133, 135; Bills 4, 14, 17 and 20; and Ministers’ statements 65 and 88. What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair, the committee today would like to finish the NWT Housing Corporation, and before we leave this Chamber today, finish Municipal and Community Affairs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Alright. With that, we’ll take a short break and come back with the NWT Housing Corporation and get through the Housing Corporation and MACA today.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** I’d like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to going on break we agreed to proceed with the NWT Housing Corporation and the 2011-21 Main Estimates to conclusion and then MACA through to conclusion as well. Last week when we left we were on page 5-53 of the Housing Corporation. Is committee agreed we reconvene with 5-53?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** We’re on page 5-53, the NWT Housing Corporation, which is an information item. My bad. How about we ask the Minister if he has any witnesses he’d like to bring into the House. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Is committee agreed that we allow the Minister’s witnesses into the Chamber?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister McLeod, if I can please get you to introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have with me to my right, Mr. Jeff Polakoff, the CEO and president of the NWT Housing Corporation, and I have Mr. Jeff Anderson, vice-president of finance with the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the witnesses. We had agreed to move along with page 5-53. First on the list is Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I’d like to ask the Minister some questions in regard to the area of compensation benefits. I notice there’s been an increase of about $500,000, but if you look at the area of grants and contributions, there’s been a decrease of about almost $6.5 million. I’m just wondering why there’s no real correlation between delivery of the programs and services and the decline in grants and contributions. I’d like to know what the declines are, and more importantly what is the increase in regard to compensation benefits. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Anderson.

**MR. ANDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, the increase in compensation of benefits relates to four positions that we received as part of the public housing rent subsidy transfer. The reduction in grants and contributions is primarily due to the sunsetting of the federal funds that we got under the Canada Economic Action Plan.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, just on the funds in regards to the sunsetting of federal programs, are there any new federal programs that are rising that probably can replace those programs? In most cases there are new programs that do come forward every once in a while. I would just like to know, is there potential of new federal revenues by way of programs in the area of housing? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, at this time there is no new federal money. I continue to have discussions with the federal government as to their investment in housing in the Northwest Territories. At this time there is no new federal money on the horizon. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, in regards to the four PYs that you mentioned where the increase of $500,000 comes, could you tell me exactly where those four positions are?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, I will get Mr. Anderson to respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Mr. Anderson.

**MR. ANDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, there is one position, a program development specialist in Yellowknife and the rest of the positions, there is 0.5 to top up existing positions in North Slave, South Slave, Deh Cho and Sahtu and one new position for a program advisor in the Beaufort-Delta. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, in regards to the district program officer staff, I would like to know, are the district staff aware of existing government programs and services in regards to policies, procedures in regards to such things as local tenders or basically negotiated contracting guidelines to ensure that they are aware of it. Because I have had some discussions with them; it seems like they are not in full support of it. Regardless if they support it or not, it is a government policy. I would like to know, are they aware that they have to follow government policies and procedures?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, when these folks are brought on board, there is usually a bit of training and they are given an update on all of the policies and that and everything that is expected of them. They are fairly aware of all of the policies as far as the Housing Corporation goes. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, again, why is it the Inuvik regional office does not support negotiated contracting policy?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, I think the office has proven in the past that they do support negotiated contracts. There is an opportunity for contractors to build up their capacity. I do know that within the past four or five years there have been nine or 10 negotiated contracts in the region. That is allowing a lot of the small-town contractors to build up their capacity. They do support negotiated contracts. They have let negotiated contracts. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, can I get a copy and a list of the negotiated contracts that have been let in regards to where those contracts have been let? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we will be pleased to provide that information to the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note the monitoring aspect of the programs and district operations. I note also that much of our public housing programs are delivered in thermal communities where the financial and environmental costs of power are the greatest and perhaps the opportunity is there for reducing those costs. As part of the monitoring responsibility, what surveys are currently taking place that can help us describe the current electricity demand in our public housing? I am thinking particularly of the appliances that are provided in these facilities. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Polakoff.

**MR. POLAKOFF:** Mr. Chairman, over the last several years the Housing Corporation has been tracking the cost of electricity as well as power generation. I should also indicate that we have worked closely with the Arctic Energy Alliance, as well, in doing things like blower door testing and so on. In addition to that, a lot of the work that we have been doing recently, particularly over the last three years, has been related to housing design and making sure that our EnerGuide 80 standards have been addressed. Most recently, the Housing Corporation has also been certified as an EnerGuide 80 provider, so we do keep close contact or close monitoring of those costs and recognize those costs as one of the areas that we can reduce the expenditure profile of the Housing Corporation in light of the need to do business more effectively as well as in consideration of the fact that we are losing funding from CMHC.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, deputy minister, for that. I am aware of those programs. Those are good programs. I am thinking in a much more modest level here of simply the electrical appliances. I am sure the Minister knows that, in the last few years, efficiencies of appliances, washing machines and so on, you name it, have been so effective that the power demands for those appliances have decreased often in the order of one-quarter or one-third of the original what we might have seen five or eight years ago. But I don’t know if I have ever seen anything that indicates we know what appliances are in our houses. I am wondering, are there surveys happening that actually indicate the age and efficiency of our appliances relative to what they could be in our appliances today.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we continue to use all Energy Star appliances where we are doing new houses or replace them out. I do know a few programs that have occurred in the past where there was a program to replace a lot of the fridges because they were older fridges, and one community got, like, 75 fridges that were more energy efficient so they were able to go and change the fridges out. The LHOs usually do an inventory of older units so they know exactly what is in their units, what type of furnace they have in there, what make and model number and it goes right down to the appliance. So they are well aware of the appliances they have in there. If appliances become outdated, then LHOs have taken the initiative of replacing these because it helps their bottom line in the long run. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could provide me with convincing information that that is, in fact, being done and that we do know what appliances are in our buildings and that we are not, in fact, continuing to pay for very inefficient appliances in many of our public houses. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, I do know for a fact that a lot of these communities, LHOs do have an inventory and they keep track of the appliances they have in there. Having said that, if the Member wants written confirmation, we would be able to provide him with as much information as he needs. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that commitment from the Minister. I just wanted to ask briefly, I know under our energy priority investments of the Energy Minister’s committee, there is $1 million that has been assigned to the NWT Housing Corporation the previous year, the current year, and it is now extended to next year. I am wondering how are those $3 million... How is $1 million planned for 2011-12 being expended? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Anderson.

**MR. ANDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, yes we have allocated out the $1 million in our retrofit plan for next year on 28 public housing units and it’s a bunch of different priorities and a scope of work related to a heating system, windows, insulation upgrades, and those types of things that are all driven by the audits that were previously completed, the energy audit on our public housing units to make sure that we get the best value for our money. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** That’s all I had, Mr. Chair. It sounds like those dollars are being well spent. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We’re on 5-53, the NWT Housing Corporation, information item, programs and district operations, operations expenditure summary. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I’d like to ask the Minister about this section. Mr. Chair, the operations in Deline, there were some units that weren’t quite finished and completed. I went there a couple of weeks ago and the people were still out of those public housing units. They’re still boarded up, so to speak; no one was in them. I wanted to know why is that? They said it would only be a couple weeks, a couple months, now it’s been months and months and months and the people haven’t moved back into their rental units. I’m pretty sure that maybe it might get done this spring or maybe this summer. Can I ask the Minister how many houses are being renovated and when can these people move back into their houses?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have a number of units across the Northwest Territories at any given time that are being renovated. Our preference is that a lot of this work happens during the summertime when it’s easy to do the work, but we run into some situations where the work is taking a little longer than expected. I’m not sure of the particular details of this situation, but I will commit to the Member that we’ll make some inquiries and we’ll follow up and see what is the status of these particular units and I’ll pass that information on to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I look forward to the information. More importantly, I think the people who were asked to move out to make way for these renovations would be very much interested in knowing when they can move back into their units. So I hope that whatever needs to happen happens, to get them back into their units.

I want to ask the Minister if he would look into that situation and report back as to what happened, why there was such a delay to move people back into those units. It’s put a lot of stress on a lot of people in the community of Deline. People are overcrowded, they’re asked to move into other locations, other places where they’re not comfortable. So I wanted to ask the Minister if he could really take a look at this and see what happened. Why did this happen and why were these houses not completed as the tenants were told they would be? This was only supposed to take a couple of weeks and they’re losing faith in housing in terms of these renovations. So I would ask the Minister if he would do that for the people.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I will commit to the Member that we’ll prepare a briefing note with an update and status. I think there are approximately 25 units in Deline that are being renovated right now. So I’ll get an update and a status and expected finish date and then he can relay that on to his constituents. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. I have nobody else on my list. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I do have concerns with the loss of $7 million in the area of grants and contributions. I think that’s a major cut to the programs that a lot of people depend on, and knowing that there’s probably going to be less money but more demand, I’m wondering if the Housing Corporation has considered looking at maybe cutting back on some of the delivery side of the programs knowing that you have less dollars to allocate. Maybe look at less program officers on the ground, put the savings back into the programs to offset the $7 million cut from the federation government. I mean, if you look at it, that’s almost half of the grants and contribution monies that are there and I think people have to realize that there’s already a demand there and we have to find either the money internally or do an assessment on the programs and services we do deliver and we may have to cut out certain programs that we just cannot afford to deliver anymore. So has that review taken place or have we considered looking at that as an option, that we may have to cut back on the delivery side, and more importantly, how do we replace $7 million on a program that has $16 million in it? That’s a major loss of revenues and I think we know that there’s high demand in regard to these programs and services, especially from the maintenance side and from the seniors program preparedness side. I think, if anything, it’s going to have a direct affect on the residents of the Northwest Territories. So has there been a strategy or an idea of how we deal with this going forward?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member raises a good point because there is quite a decrease in the funding that we have been receiving from Ottawa, but we’ve taken the necessary steps. Obviously, because of the lack of funding, we’ve had to cut back on the dollar amounts. So on the number of programs we offer... We’re doing an evaluation of all our housing programs right now, housing choices programs. So until we see that, it’s going to be awfully difficult to determine which programs we may have to cut because of the loss of revenue. Our preference is not to cut any, because the ones we have we feel are serving a lot of the folks across the Northwest Territories.

So having said that, though, we do need to go back and have a look and do an evaluation of the programs that we do offer. I mean, I do know because we had such an aggressive construction plan for the last four or five years with the federal investment, that right now we’re having to deal with some of the after effects of that and I did give a Minister’s statement and an update to committee as to what we’re doing with all the vacant units we have and we’ve cut back on the number of HELP units that we’re doing in ‘11-12 just because we’ve got so many units that are out there. Then adding into our public housing stock as we’re doing now, then that may relieve some of the pressure of having to come forward with money for more public housing. So with the 37 we’re proposing through the Vacant Unit Housing Strategy and the 12, so we’ve got 49 units that should be into our public housing stock this year. So that should alleviate a lot of the pressure going forward. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, I think that we have to be realistic here that we as government probably can’t cover off that $7 million. We are going to have to look for that internally. There are other things that have been requested in regard to shelter policies, looking at the possibility of other programs that people are requiring. I think also with the number of vacant housing units that we have on the ground, regardless if we’re trying to get them occupied, there’s still an ongoing cost to operate and maintain those units. You can’t walk away from that. I think that we have to be realistic that we have to sometimes make tough decisions and that that may mean doing away with a certain program or having, in some cases, to lay off program staff because you’re spending more money on delivering the program than they actually have program dollars to deliver it. So for me, that’s the issue.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We geared our programs and the amount of dollars that were allocated to each program. A lot of that was based on the money we were getting from the federal government and because that money is not there, then obviously we’ll have to pull back a bit and go back to our historical figures. We use the CARE, the home repair, for example. Because of the investment the federal government has made, we’ve been able to add resource into that particular program. Now that the investment is done, it’s sunsetted, then we go back to our historical figures and we feel that we’ve been able to make some gains in the last few years with the amount of money that we’ve been putting into a lot of these programs. Our programs were geared to the amount of money we received and now that all that’s sunsetted, we’re back to our historical levels. We still feel that we’ll be able to provide programs not on the scale that we’ve seen in the last few years but we’ll still be able to provide programs.

**MR. KRUTKO:** In the past one of the ideas was to start selling off some of the government housing units regardless if they were surplus housing or they were considered that come to in the life retrofits, it basically might be cheaper to just dispose of those units than trying to put any more money into them. I think we have to realize we have less money and we need to find ways to bring in new revenues or quit throwing good money after bad, knowing that we have to dispose of those assets, get rid of them, get them off our books, and take the O and M money or maintenance money and reinvest it into new construction or programs. I’d like to know where we’re going with that notion of divesting ourselves of old housing assets and getting them off our books.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Last count we have 51 units across the Northwest Territories that we’re looking to remove from our stock. We’re trying to find ways to get rid of these units. We’ve been working with some community governments to try and turn the units over because they’ve expressed an interest in them. We do have 51 that are slated for disposal one way or another and we’re hoping to have a fairly aggressive disposal plan. We hear from a lot of the communities, we have a lot of units in the community that are boarded up and aren’t really any good to anybody. We’re figuring out how we can deal with that. We’re looking to see some results to that.

As far as selling off some of our older units, that’s not a very good point, because everything’s for sale. Mostly everything’s for sale. What we want to make sure is if we’re selling our units, we want people to be able to maintain the units and look after them. We don’t want to be setting anybody up that takes over a unit and finds that their maintenance costs are a lot higher than expected. It’s not a policy, but we do say that most of our units are for sale as long as we have people there that are qualified to buy them. Not only buy them, but more importantly they have to be able to maintain them.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Can we have some order in the House? It’s kind of hard to hear the Minister’s good answers.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Okay. No question. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just thought you were going to...

---Interjection

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again the question I have is we’ve had a report not that long ago where there were 137 units sitting vacant. I think that we have to realize there is a cost to operate and maintain those units. We have to realize that that is an ongoing cost that we’ll have to pay, whether people are in those units or not. We have to find a way to invest the resources we have while realizing we may have to shut down certain units and say, sorry, we cannot operate uneconomic units because it’s just not viable. I know people don’t like to see boarded-up units, but at the end of the day you have to make a decision on how to find ways to get these units occupied, operational, and either disposing of them through the homeownership programs or finding ways, like you say, to turn them into social or public housing. We need to require them to take the cost savings from the operation of those newer units that we just built throughout the Northwest Territories. We have 2,400 units to operate. That may mean re-profiling those units and disposing or liquidating the older units. That is something that we have to be aware of. It is an issue. I know you’re trying different things regarding professional housing and getting more people into homeownership, but we have to find a way to work around that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 135 to 137 units that the Member spoke of, we’re looking at August 31st by having all those off our hands. A lot of them will be approved HELP clients, which wouldn’t be really a burden on the NWT Housing Corporation.

The Member is right; a lot of these units have been empty for the last few years. We’ve had to maintain the units and look after the operational costs of the units, because we’ve been putting them down so quick and we’re having trouble finding approved clients for it. We’re quite confident this year that we have 82 clients, we think, are just in the stages of being approved. We think we can get those in. I’m not sure if the 20 that we’re looking at under the gap analysis that I’ve asked the Housing Corporation to do, I’m not sure if they’re in the 82 or if… They’re in 82? So they are within the 82. So we’re thinking 82 will be given to homeowners or signed over to homeowners. Then, as I pointed out, we do plan on converting some over to public housing. Then, doing that, we may have to, as the Member said, start selling off some of our older units that we continue to pay the O and M on. We just take them down, sell them, do what we can with them, but we do need to relieve ourselves of a lot of these older units.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. We’re on page 5-53, NWT Housing Corporation, information item, programs and district operations, operations expenditure summary.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 5-54, NWT Housing Corporation, information item, programs and district operations, grants and contributions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 5-57. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to bring this up. I know the Minister is aware of this. Some of the concerns that I have about the current budgeting of local housing organizations seem to fail to recognize the realities under which they provide social housing. This practice is leading to untenable financial situations and could ultimately mean the end of some LHOs and their bankruptcy. The reality and the dilemma that we face here is that you can’t get blood from a stone. What can the Minister do to prevent this service delivery failure, outright bankruptcy that seems inevitable if we stick to the current budgeting practices? I know the Minister’s been wrestling with this, so I’m looking forward to hearing what can be done. If there simply is not the capacity amongst our tenants to pay the rent collections that the Housing Corporation deems should be paid, then we need to be able to fund LHOs recognizing that fact.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working with some of the LHOs that have found themselves facing some financial difficulties. We have a stabilization fund we’re hoping will help them stabilize a bit.

The Member speaks of the rent collection. We ask LHOs to collect 90 percent of the assessments. We’ve had a lot of people across the Northwest Territories...and the Member talks about the capacity of tenants to pay. A lot of them have realized now that they have to start working on their arrears, they have to start paying their rent. I think we’re starting to see a bit of a shift in attitude. I do know and I see the numbers of people that are coming in that are in arrears that are working out repayment plans. It’s very encouraging to see that. Having said that, we still recognize that there is a need to continue to work with the LHOs, and the tenants need to do their part to ensure that their LHOs are running smoothly, are fairly stable.

During the transfer of assessments we found that we had a few LHOs running into some financial difficulties and we’re dealing with that right now. I think since June 1st, when LHOs took over the responsibility for assessments, I think we’ve seen an improvement. In all areas of housing we’ve seen improvements. In the repayment plans we’ve seen improvements. In the rent collection we’ve seen improvements. In the assessments and reassessments we’ve seen improvements. I think that goes a long way to helping the LHOs. In the short term we’re working with the LHOs. We have a bit of a stabilization fund that we’re hoping to help them offset and maybe get back on track. The rest of it will then kick in and I think we’ll see that once they’re over this crisis, they’ll all start operating pretty smoothly.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I’m afraid I swallowed that reassurance line for a couple of years on this and I wish I could be with the Minister on this, but it ain’t happening out there. I’m not saying that there aren’t some improvements in some areas, and perhaps in some communities there have been vast improvements. The situation is not like that with the communities that I work with and others that I know about. We’re not just talking a minor adjustment or a little adjustment here. I’m not sure what stabilization funds. I’d like to know how much we’re talking about in stabilization funds. We’re talking about 100 percent difference between what is being collected and what the Minister is asking to be collected. Like they say, you can’t get blood from a stone. I’m looking for some real action here, a reality check of the department, because the march continues very much towards bankruptcy here. That’s just the plain facts. The rates are an escalating thing, an exponential thing. It starts low and doubles each year. It doesn’t take many doublings before we’re at 100 percent in the hole here. I’d like to be reassured. The Minister speaks in a very reassuring way. Again, I haven’t seen any mechanism here that is actually going to deal with this.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I’ve only been reassuring the Member for about a year and a half, and in that year and half we’ve seen a significant improvement. I have a lot of confidence in our LHOs and our corporation’s ability to deal with the deficit. I know the Member thinks I’m just trying to paint everything with rose coloured glasses, but I do have a lot of confidence in our LHOs. We are doing what we can to work with the LHOs. There are some costs that are borne by the LHOs that are uncontrollables that are usually reimbursed by the Housing Corporation, and there are some that are uncontrollable. It’s a work in progress. Short of cutting a cheque for the amount that this particular one is in deficit for, we need to work with them. If we continue to keep bailing them out with the tenants realizing that they don’t have to pay their rent because they’re going to bail them out anyway, we’re sending the wrong message. I’m not prepared to do that. We will work with the LHOs. We will expect them to have the tenants come in and get assessed. For those that are assessed and are receiving the subsidy from ECE, well, that helps the LHO and that helps us. If they don’t come in and get assessed, they’re automatically dinged for economic rent, which in turn puts them in arrears. It’s hard for us because we’re unable to collect from income support to subsidize the rent. It’s a scenario that works both ways.

I continue to be confident in the LHOs’ ability and our ability to deal with the deficit and I have to be, because if we just start bailing everybody out, then I think we send the wrong message to tenants that regardless if they pay rent or not, the LHO will keep running. We’re not asking... As the Member says that it’s hard to get blood from a stone, but there are a lot of folks out there that have stepped up to the plate and I can run off numbers of people that have come forward, entered into repayment plans, and that in turn helps the LHOs.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Again, I’m hearing the Minister’s reassurance here and I guess I’d just ask him to maybe keep me apprised of any specifics where gains are made in my communities. I’ll leave it at that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I didn’t hear a question, but would the Minister like to respond?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do try to make it a point and I will keep the Member up to date on any developments not only in his community but the other communities where we’re facing some challenges. I will keep the Members apprised of the goings-on in their ridings. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Next on my list is Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to take the time and the opportunity out of the Committee of the Whole to recognize my older brother up in the gallery, Raymond Yakeleya, who has come to see the proceedings of the House. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I didn’t hear a question, so I’ll go to the next person on my list, which is Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I better put on my rose coloured glasses. My question is in regard to LHOs. I know the community of Tsiigehtchic did raise this question with the Minister that they had an LHO in the community of Tsiigehtchic but they don’t have it anymore. I noted, looking through your information, you have units in some 26 communities but you only have 23 LHOs. I’d just like to ask when can we expect to see an LHO in the community of Tsiigehtchic where they had a local housing authority previous and they don’t have that anymore. I’d just like to know when we can see that local housing authority being established or implemented again so that they can hire people to sit on the board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have a manager in there and we do have a maintenance person, but they don’t have an LHO board. That’s been a question that’s been asked to me by some of the leadership of Tsiigehtchic. My answer to them was as soon as they write us a letter saying that they want to form an LHO and form a board. I think the last time was at the regional leaders meeting in Inuvik and I mentioned that to the chief in response to his question, and at the Gwich’in leadership meeting I responded to one of the councillor’s question with the same answer. We’re waiting to hear from them. We’re working with them. As soon as they give us an indication in writing that they want to form their board, then we’ll proceed. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I’m not too clear but I thought the understanding was that the local housing authorities are registered under the Societies Act as an organization, in which they have to hold annual meetings and at the annual meetings is when they elect their board in the community. I’m just wondering if the Minister or the regional staff can go into Tsiigehtchic and host a community meeting so that they can follow the bylaws that already exist. They already registered as a society; it’s just a matter of having the public meeting. I’d just like to ask the Minister if he can direct his staff or the regional staff to go into Tsiigehtchic, schedule an annual meeting and give them an update on their financial status as a local housing authority and at that time appoint a board from the public as it’s referred to in their bylaws. They already established a society under the Societies Act, so it’s just a matter of having that meeting and appoint a board. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chair, I’ll direct staff to find out about the Societies Act and if that’s the case, then… Because we thought the letter that we were going to get from them was going to trigger the whole thing, but if they’re already a society, then, I mean, we have no issue of going into the community. We’ll direct staff to maybe go in there and meet with them and just give them a bit of a briefing or an update and then, I’m not sure how their bylaws would work, but if they were to elect their own board during a general meeting, but that would be up to them. I’ll commit to the Member that I’ll direct staff to work very closely with the community of Tsiigehtchic to see what we can do about getting the local board established. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Just following up on a question asked by my colleague Mr. Bromley in regard to how do we help LHOs getting out of arrears. I think Tsiigehtchic should be a good role model for people to follow because they had the same problem. They basically had to downsize their operation in which they, like you mentioned, they just simply cut themselves right down to two people. You have a maintainer and basically a local administrator. But again, what they did there was they worked with their tenants, they found a bunch of units they had to dispose of, they hired people, or didn’t hire them but basically told the tenants you’ve got arrears, there’s a way we think you can work this off. One of the ways was to basically dispose of those units, train a few people, and, again, a lot of the tenants were women, young, single mothers who were able to get some job experience by ripping these units apart, salvage whatever you can, work off your arrears, half goes towards your arrears, half you get to take home. I think that’s an illustration of how you can work with LHOs and communities to pay down the rent.

I know Mr. Bromley has raised the issues of why couldn’t they shovel the sidewalks or basically cut wood for different people and find ways in our communities that you can work off your arrears than simply have arrears continue to build up, build up, build up. I think that’s the type of stuff that we have to work with with the LHOs of finding unique ways so we know there are high pockets of unemployment, there are people that are willing to work off these things.

One of the areas where I think we really have a good opportunity to do that is a lot of the retrofits and a lot of the work that has to be done locally in the summer months is a perfect chance to put some of these people that have arrears to work with the idea that, okay, we’ll come to work, we’ll take half your pay, put it against your arrears, you get to take home the other half. That’s the type of stuff that we have to work on with the LHOs and the tenants so that they can show that, you know, we’ll work with you, you work with us, we’ll find solutions to our problems and bring down the arrears in our communities. Again, this is an illustration of how a community was able to do that. They’re basically out of the red now. They’re in the black. They’re doing good. Their collections are up and I think that’s what we want to see.

Again, I’d just like to pass that on to the Minister because I think that’s the type of stuff that we have to learn from, and more importantly, implement elsewhere. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** That was a very good example of the work they did in Tsiigehtchic and it’s something that we should promote as the Housing Corp, and even as the government, to encourage a lot of our folks in the communities to come up with innovative ways to deal with the arrears. I mean, there are productive choices that they’re supposed to go through income support. That would be another good opportunity. It’s something that I will commit to this House that as a corporation we’ll try to work with our LHOs to see if we can find other thinking outside the box ideas where we can assist the tenants and not only assist the tenants, then, it would also help with the LHO, and the tenants feel a lot more responsible for their units. It’s just advice that I will take from the Member. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I just have a question to the Minister or one of the staff in regard to writing off bad debts. We have debts we carried on our books in regard to people who have passed on. Basically, if you’re a couple, you have someone’s debt that basically will fall over to you. Is there anything that the government has done to dispose of bad debts in the local housing authority where we know that the person is deceased or we know that because of ailment and whatnot, there’s no way these people will ever be able to pay that off. Is there some sort of a disposal of debts act that we can look at to deal with the Housing Corporation debt? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chair, we are looking at coming forward with writing off debts exactly as the Member had stated. There are some deceased people that are still showing. We’re planning on writing those off and we’re looking at other hardship cases. As a corporation, we have been, for the last little bit, looking at the number of different situations we find ourselves in in each community, deceased people, hardship people, and we do plan on coming forward with writing off a lot of those much older debts. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. We’re on page 5-57. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of quick questions. The Minister mentioned stabilization funds. I wonder if he could tell me how much is in that stabilization fund budget for 2011-12. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, $640,000 this year, $250,000 next year. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I got that $640,000. That is 2010-11 and $250,000 for 2011-12. What is the basis for allocation of those dollars?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I’m sorry, Mr. Chairman. I was having a discussion here and I missed the Member’s question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. The Member was asking what is the basis for that allocation.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I will refer to Mr. Polakoff.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Mr. Polakoff.

**MR. POLAKOFF:** Mr. Chairman, the allocation was based on looking at it on a LHO-by-LHO basis, as well as taking a look not only at what the current deficit is of the LHO but also what the specifics are that we are generating the deficit to determine whether or not there was an opportunity to work with the LHO on management or if it was a cash issue, and also recognizing that it has to be dealt with over a longer period of time and it won’t be immediate.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Polakoff. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chairman, does every LHO get some support from the stabilization fund or is it just sort of those that have these specific problems?

**MR. POLAKOFF:** Mr. Chairman, it is those that are in the most dire financial straits right now.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chairman, again, it is those that are cash strapped, but there is obviously an additional part to it. Is it where there are not management problems perceived, those are the ones that would get the cash? Is that correct?

**MR. POLAKOFF:** Mr. Chairman, those would be the priority ones. Yes, the Member is correct.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Polakoff. We are on page 5-57. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just trying to follow that exchange that happened a moment ago. I am just trying to get a sense. A local LHO, what do they do with the revenue garnered through the rent process? I think the question I asked last week was how much on a recovery basis per LHO for rental. We have about a 76 percent average. So where does that money go that they receive? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, the rent that each LHO generates goes back into the operations. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, just expanding a little further, so if there is almost 24 percent shortage here, how do they make up that recovery of that percentage?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, in some cases we will assist them, as I mentioned in my response to one of the other Member’s questions. There are some uncontrollables that we assist them with. The more money they generate, then the less assistance they would receive and the more money they receive from revenue, they would be able to put that back into their operations. That would keep them out of running a deficit situation. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, in the last five years what has the department done to... How much money has the department bailed out these LHOs? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we don’t have that information with us at the moment. I will get the information and pass it on to the Member and other Members if they wish to receive the same information. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, can I have that broken out by LHO, please? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, that is doable.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, on these particular LHOs -- and I wish to, of course, thank the Minister for willing to provide that information -- does it come with an accompanying deficit elimination plan of any sort to address that 24 percent shortfall? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we will work with the LHOs to come up with a deficit recovery plan and there are a number of things that some of the supports that we work with the LHO. We do an analysis of their LHO operations and where they can see some savings and that. We work quite closely with the LHO, because it is not our intent to have our LHOs in a deficit situation all of the time and not being able to provide service we expect of them. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, if an LHO is in deficit, how does that reflect upon their operations? Would it affect their maintenance budget by and large? Does the Housing Corporation make up the shortfall on the maintenance budget? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, yes they do.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, is there a departmental break-even point where statistical average bank on that... By way of example, 90 percent of rent recovery is where it provides enough money for operations and maintenance of that LHO, or is there another number targeted? More specifically, what is the target for break-even point? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we expect to have our LHOs to collect 90 percent of assessments. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has been more than generous with his offer of information. I will take what he has offered. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. No question. We are on page 5-57, the NWT Housing Corporation, information item, local housing organizations, operations expenditure summary.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Okay. We are moving along to page 5-58, NWT Housing Corporation, information item, local housing organizations, grants and contributions. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, specific to page 5-58, I was looking at the numbers here. I was just trying to get a sense as to programming value and make sense of it. If I look at electrical power, we go in the actuals of 2009-10 budget year of $6.5 million but it drops. We will call it relatively stable for the 2010-11 to the 2011-12 year. I am just trying to get a sense of how power has gone up, everything has gone up, but I am just trying to follow why the numbers haven’t really changed much. It just seems as if they don’t fluctuate the way everyone else’s house is going up. My power bill has skyrocketed. Everyone I know who has complained about power has gone up significantly, but it just doesn’t seem like the water and power costs are reflecting what is actually happening out there. I am just trying to get a sense on how it is managed and followed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Anderson.

**MR. ANDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, we essentially manage the utility accounts -- all three of them -- together. There is no question, we anticipate being a bit tight on our electricity budget for next year. With the heating fuel and water accounts, we think we can mitigate that as much as possible. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to get a sense of... I thank Mr. Anderson for that answer. He led right into exactly where I wanted to go. What programs do we offer to mitigate? The note I wrote down here to make sure I asked was, how do we manage, control or create efficiencies in the context of consumption, whether it is water, sanitation, heating, fuel and power rates, when by and large a lot of people are not actually paying those actual bills? How do we manage and monitor and create efficiencies in those particular areas? Thank you.

**MR. ANDERSON:** Mr. Chairman, we the corporation, and working with our local housing organizations, review on an ongoing basis consumption and pricing for all of the utilities. Electricity costs, as an example, are running about 500 kilowatts per month per household on average. So it’s certainly lower than average. Water, the same thing. We’re running about 60 litres per person per day. So we don’t really have much of a problem on the consumption side with the utilities. It’s more in the pricing. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I guess as a general policy do the tenants pay the electrical power, the heating fuel or the water and sanitation bills? Thank you.

**MR. ANDERSON:** We ask our public housing tenants to pay six cents per kilowatt hour for electricity and the rest of the costs are covered through the local housing organization. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. Mr. Anderson cited we’ll call it the average of 500 kilowatts on the household. It’s been my understanding that that’s a normal kilowatt usage throughout the Territory, in the smaller communities that is. What does the department do to encourage people to use power efficiently? Has the Housing Corporation switched all the light bulbs from incandescent to the... Has the Housing Corporation switched the washing machines to high efficiency, have they changed the water things, things of that nature to help bring those costs down? By and large it sounds as if the tenant is responsible for six cents on a kilowatt, which is not very much. I mean, it sounds like about a $30 bill a month. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In a lot of cases the LHOs have switched to the higher efficiency bulb and we’ve seen some of the difference in that, and as far as the appliances that we use in the units -- fridge, stove and the washer and dryer -- they’re usually responsible for. But having switched those out to higher efficiency models, I think we’re seeing a difference there. Also tenants are becoming more educated as to the more power they use, the more they have to pay. So they’re taking steps on their own. We have a communication plan and we try to work with the tenants to ensure that their power consumption is down. I think after the first few bills of leaving all the lights on and that, I think the message gets out there pretty quick and they take steps on their own. So we’ve seen a real improvement in the power consumption of tenants. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. I am pleased to hear the Minister’s comment there. I’m just trying to get a sense to if your power increases by 20 percent, so you’ve now added 100 additional kilowatts onto your monthly bill, and if you’re paying six cents per kilowatt as a tenant, you’re paying $6 extra that month, now what’s to motivate them and what does the Housing Corp do? I hear what the Minister is saying, that if they’re paying outrageous prices for power, they would be motivated to use less power, but if somebody increased their power consumption by 20 percent, it would only be $6. How would that be an alarm to the tenant? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chair, it’s only $6 to us, but to a lot of tenants out there that $6 is a lot of money because we have a lot of social housing clients. So it’s beneficial to them to keep their power consumption as low as possible. So we’re starting to see that. We do see some folks coming in with bills in the $30 to $40 range. Some may be a little higher, but after a while I think they realize that its beneficial to them to use as little power as possible, and a lot of them being social assistance clients, they don’t have the means to pay. So $6 is a lot of money to some of those folks. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thanks. I appreciate the Minister’s perspective on this particular subject. I’m having a difficult time understanding what the motivating factors are. I hear his point, it didn’t go past me, which is $6 is probably, in some cases, for some people six more dollars than they have. But that said, I mean, I’m just not hearing perhaps what the Housing Corporation does to monitor and manage. I mean, if somebody had an 800 kilowatt bill one month, I mean, what would the department do? By and large would they just pay it and, of course, the person would now pay $48 that month for a power bill, or do they speak to them? I mean, the example is built around just a point of saying what do we do to encourage people to take some ownership and six cents a kilowatt is not a way to take ownership.

In Yellowknife, I mean, you’re paying .24 cents and that’s by and large not the lowest, but it’s certainly pretty close to the bottom compared to other regions. So I can’t cite examples, since the system has changed a bit, but six cents per kilowatt just doesn’t seem like a motivating factor. I mean, what does the department do when they get a very high power bill? Do they just pay it and just say, oh well? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The answer is we do pay it and the LHOs would work with the tenants. Public housing tenants as a rule use less power than a lot of private homeowners. So the $30 or $40, or the $6, it all depends on the amount of power that they use, but if the Member thinks that we just pay it and not talk to these folks, well, I mean, that’s far from the truth. We do work closely with clients and if you notice a spike, I can’t speak for the LHOs, but if you notice a spike in power consumption, then you would have a discussion with those tenants, because it’s costing the tenants money too. So it’s something that we work closely with tenants on.

Every LHO knows how much they pay in power, how much power the tenants are using, because they get a power bill for every unit that they have. So it is one that’s monitored very closely, I can assure the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. We’re on page 5-58, NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I just couldn’t let it go by. It’s not that I think the Housing Corp does nothing; it’s not that assumption at all. I’m just trying to buy into what’s the motivator here to ensure people are using power reasonably. I don’t want to say conservatively, I don’t want to make people live by one light bulb on the house and they all huddle around it to stay warm and to read. I’m not suggesting that at all. I’m just saying good and reasonable management and that’s what I’m asking. Has the department identified what is considered a normal level of consumption for the amount of people in a particular unit, whether they’re two people in a two-bedroom unit or four people in a three-bedroom unit, whatever the case may be? I mean, have they designed a factor of what’s considered reasonable power consumption and how do they encourage people to live by that? That’s the kind of thing I’m after in trying to get a sense of how and what that means. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** My answer would be the same as it was before. We would communicate with these folks and we would talk to them. As far as the motivating factor, maybe the Member needs to go out and speak to some tenants of public housing and ask them what their motivating factor is, but I know as a corporation our motivating factor is to keep our costs down and work with the tenants and keep their costs down. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, and I’m really careful in how I want to say this because I don’t want to sound as if I’m stereotyping people in these situations. So I’m trying to be very careful, but if somebody left their windows open and the heat on, the everyday person would be paying for that. What happens from a Housing Corporation or an LHO point of view to make sure that doesn’t happen. The average everyday person who leaves the lights on has to take ownership when they go to work, the kids go to school, those types of things. If they leave all the lights on, they have to accept that if they want to do that, light an empty house or dwelling, they have to accept the realities that they’re paying for it. I know the Minister is answering and I know he can’t speak directly for the LHO by saying what they say, but I guess I’m just missing the component here of not hearing how they educate folks to encourage them to come back. I mean, has the Housing Corporation looked at designing an upper limit and attaching more responsibility, sort of a grading process? When he talks about taking responsibility for the extra kilowatt usage, has the Housing Corporation looked at that?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I think the days of tenants leaving windows open and heat on are pretty well long gone. Maybe in a few cases there are some. If the Member is suggesting we raise from six cents to 12 cents, then he can bring that forward and we would be more willing to entertain that.

**MR. HAWKINS:** What’s to stop the Housing Corporation from raising kilowatt usage from six cents to 12 cents?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** It’s something that we’ve obviously had a look at and we have to consider the situation. A lot of tenants that we have out there in our public housing portfolio, I think tenants are taking some responsibility in keeping some of their costs down. If raising it to 12 cents will be an incentive to keep their costs down, then I suppose it’s something we’d have to have a look at and we’d need, obviously, the support of this Assembly.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Has the Housing Corporation developed any discussion papers or briefing notes to that effect? If they have, can they share it with committee members?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** No, we haven’t. We’ve had some preliminary discussion. I’ve asked the corporation to put some numbers together for me, but we really don’t have anything formal put together yet.

**MR. HAWKINS:** When can that be expected to be put together?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** That’s just something that we’re working on right now. I can’t give a specific timetable. You have to understand that we have a lot of folks out there in the small communities that are paying a fairly good rate for the power that they consume, so we have to give that some consideration too. We have to be understandable of that. It’s not one that we just don’t want to rush in blindfolded and throw a number out there. We have to realize that we have a lot of folks in small communities where their power rates are awfully high and they’re not as fortunate as some of the larger communities that have a lot cheaper power.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Does the Minister have any statistics as to how many of their Housing Corporation clients are on income support?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I’m sure that information is there somewhere, but I can tell the Member that we have 45 percent of our tenants who are paying $32. There are 21 percent of our tenants that are at zero. We do have some statistics and I’ll try to pull them together and give the Member all of the information he needs to make a very informed recommendation.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I will once again thank the Minister for his generosity and I will leave it at that point. I will take it as he’s offered it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. We’re on page 5-58, NWT Housing Corporation, information item, local housing organizations, grants and contributions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 5-59, NWT Housing Corporation, information item, lease commitments – infrastructure.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 5-60, NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’d just like to ask the Minister about the facilities such as the Joe Greenland Centre, the facility in Behchoko, and I believe there’s a facility in Fort Simpson, with respect to long-term care facilities. I’d like to know where in the budget you can show me that there are actually infrastructure investments and how much money is going to be invested into the Joe Greenland Centre for the retrofits that are required for the two reports from Public Works and Services and the Housing Corporation on the condition of the facility and the work that has to be done to bring it up to code.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven’t identified any exact numbers. We don’t have a line item yet for the work that’s going to be undertaken at the Joe Greenland Centre. It is one that we are hoping to bring forward and get approval for, but it’s not a line item in this particular budget. It is work that we are planning on doing.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I had assumed it was one of the assets that we serviced, so I assumed it was part of the $386 million line item. It is an asset that the Housing Corporation owns. I assumed that if it was listed as an asset, that we should know the book value of it and the depreciated value of it. Do we have that type of assessment?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We don’t have that level of detail here, but I will commit to the Member that we’ll get the information that he’s requesting.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Page 5-60, NWT Housing Corporation, information item, infrastructure investment summary.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** With that, we will now turn back to the summary page, which is 5-41. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 5-41, NWT Housing Corporation, information item, financial summary information.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Does committee agree that that concludes our consideration of the NWT Housing Corporation?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** With that, I’d like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for joining us here today and I’ll get the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thanks to the Minister for his responses.

As agreed earlier, our next department is MACA. Does committee agree that we move on with the Department of MACA?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** I’d like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to going on break we had gone on to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. I’ll now go to the Minister for his opening comments. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to discuss the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs 2011-2012 main estimates and the activities MACA is planning to undertake in 2011-2012 that supports the visions and goals of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

MACA has a very broad mandate which focuses on community governments but also provides a range of programs and services to individual and other sectors such as sport and recreation, youth and volunteers.

The department’s 2011-2012 main estimates total is $93.3 million in operations expenses. Of this funding, approximately 78 percent is provided to our key stakeholders, community governments.

The 2011-2012 main estimates funding level is an increase of $2 million net of sunsets or 2 percent from the 2010-2011 funding level. The increase is comprised of $1.6 million in forced growth funding and $850,000 in strategic initiative funding offset by funding that is sunsetting this fiscal year.

MACA will also provide community governments with infrastructure acquisition funding of $28 million in 2011-2012 comprised entirely of capital formula funding. This is a decrease of approximately $12 million from the 2010-2011 fiscal year which is due to completion of the Building Canada Plan funding from the Government of Canada in 2010-2011. In addition, the Gas Tax Agreement will provide community governments with additional funding of $15 million in 2011-2012, unchanged from the 2010-2011 funding level.

MACA’s 2011-2012 main estimates include $43.3 million to provide for community government operation and maintenance costs and $12.6 million to provide for water and sewer costs. MACA, with input from the NWT Association of Communities, will be undertaking reviews of both these funding programs in 2011-2012 and the results of this review may result in changes to the budget in future years.

To date, over the term of the 16th Legislative Assembly and reflected in MACA’s 2011-2012 main estimates, a total of $7.7 million in funding has been provided to the department through the strategic initiative process to reflect the 16th Legislative Assembly’s priorities. The majority of this funding is allocated to youth, recreation, healthy choices and community capacity building initiatives. This year’s main estimates includes $850,000 in new strategic initiative funding.

Base funding of $300,000 is included in the main estimates to support community capacity in the areas of fire and emergency management. The department is conducting a capacity assessment of community government fire departments in 2010-2011 and funding in 2011-2012 will be used to provide training tailored to each community government based on these assessments. Emergency management training is also being planned for next fiscal year to provide community governments with the basic information and training they need to address a variety of potential emergency situations.

You may recall that all community governments were required to develop integrated community sustainability plans as part of the Gas Tax Agreement and that all community governments met the March 31, 2010, deadline to complete their plans. MACA’s main estimates include new funding of $150,000 to support the department in its work to assist community governments to now implement their plans, and MACA and the NWT Association of Communities will develop a work plan to support this work.

Amongst other activities in 2011-2012, MACA will assist community governments to facilitate engagement with residents by helping to coordinate community forums, by providing technical advice and assistance related to the implementation of integrated community sustainability plans and the sub-plans related to energy capital and human resources.

The 2011-12 main estimates also include new funding of $150,000 to establish a permanent Youth Ambassadors Program. In the past, MACA has had great success with this program and did not always have the necessary funding in place to provide the program on an ongoing basis. New funding in 2011-12 will provide for the program design of a permanent program to support youth ambassadors at national and international multi-sport games events with access to the program by youth from all communities.

MACA is also planning an alumni element designed to recruit former ambassadors into project leadership roles and the establishment of a formal longitudinal evaluation process to measure the outcomes of the program. Participants will include the next generation of community leaders, which will help the GNWT achieve its goals related to healthy choices and community development. Currently, MACA works with Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Transportation and Justice to administer the GNWT’s Healthy Choices Framework to support the Legislative Assembly’s goal of encouraging healthy choices.

Finally, MACA’s main estimates include a strategic initiative funding increase of $250,000 to undertake survey work for municipal assets so that these assets can be legally transferred to all community governments. The funding associated with land surveys for municipal assets is for two years only and is scheduled to sunset in March 2013.

Forced growth funding accounts for $1.6 million of the year-over-year increase to MACA’s budget reflected in the 2011-12 main estimates. This increase is to provide for increased grants-in-lieu payments to tax-based communities, to establish a permanent budget for the department’s work in supporting the board of revision and the Assessment Appeal Tribunal, to increase MACA’s capacity to assist with property assessment, and to provide for Collective Agreement costs.

MACA continues to support community governments in their capacity building initiatives and funding first approved in 2010-11 for the public service capacity is again reflected in MACA’s 2011-12 business plan. There has been a great deal of work done on this program over the past year and the input of our partners from the NWT Association of Communities, the Local Government Administrators of the NWT, and the Department of Human Resources has been critical to the program design and implementation. Most of the programs under this initiative are started, and the department is currently working to finalize an evaluation framework to use to measure results and to report on the program and its outcomes.

In 2010-11 MACA finalized its strategic plan. A key element of the strategic plan is the development of an accountability framework that will outline legislative requirements and other public accountability measures required for MACA and community governments. The accountability framework is intended to provide MACA and community governments with information and clarity on roles and responsibilities related to departmental legislation and policy and to articulate the type and form of support and information that MACA provides to community governments.

Mr. Chair, MACA has made good progress on the strategic plan in 2010-11 and will work to ensure that all stakeholders are provided with information on the department’s progress on undertaking the actions outlined in the strategic plan and will report on results on an annual basis.

This concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chair, and I will be pleased to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Do you have witnesses you’d like to bring into the Chamber?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I would, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Is committee agreed that we allow the Minister to bring his witnesses into the Chamber?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Sergeant-at-Arms, if I can please get you to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Thank you, Minister McLeod. If I can please get you to introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have with me to my right, Mr. Mike Aumond, deputy minister, Municipal and Community Affairs, and Ms. Laura Gareau, director of corporate affairs for Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. As with previous departments, what we’ll do is we will allow Members to make some general comments on the opening remarks. We’ll do all the Members and then we’ll go to the Minister for a summation and a general response. Then we’ll consider going into detail. Are there any general comments? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to the area of Municipal and Community Affairs, I think we have to realize that some communities are still challenged by the decision to allow communities to take on more programs and responsibilities. Communities are still challenged by way of capacity issues regardless if it’s a lack of professional staff such as SAOs, financial officers, and even, in some cases, in regard to maintenance. People that they require to implement their responsibilities and obligations under the community empowerment that’s taken place by transferring those program responsibilities. But again, I think that the way, regardless if it’s the gas tax money or looking at the way it’s been allocated based on base plus funding in regard to per capita, but for the smaller communities that have small populations it means well but it doesn’t really give them the capacity they need to take on, regardless if you’re dealing with a maintenance issue such as road dust control or dealing with the area of water and sewer. But having that extra funding to assist them to really implement the obligations they’d like to carry out, but more importantly, with the illustration in regard to the communities to basically develop their own community capacity issues, but more importantly, looking at the access to the gas tax money where you had to write your energy plans and those types of initiatives. A lot of communities were not able to meet that idea where we had to bring in the Arctic Energy Alliance and other groups to assist them in regard to developing those requirements in order to fulfill the obligations under the gas tax.

Again, I think that it’s great when you have a large population base where you are receiving the benefits of the gas tax money, the area of property tax, in regard to your tax revenues, in regard to taxes from the different fees that you’re able to acquire those additional taxes, but in most communities you don’t. Without having the ideal population base, those are challenges you’re going to continue to face.

Again, the other issues dealing with high costs of operating those municipal structures in communities versus the cost of operating them in large urban centres, again, is a challenge that a lot of our communities are facing. I know one of the issues that you’ve heard time and time again is the area of the health and the well-being of communities to realistically meet or exceed the programs that you see elsewhere, regardless if it’s dealing with road maintenance, dust control, areas in regard to accessing federal money so that you’re able to deal with the area of federal regulations regardless if it’s dealing with the processing of grey water or even dealing with the potential of a carbon tax in the future, that we have to be realistic that a lot of these communities don’t have the human resource capacity to take those on. I think that we have to be realistic that the shoe doesn’t fit all, and more importantly, the challenges are different from the large versus small rural and urban communities.

Again, I think it’s important to realize that we still have an obligation to ensure that those communities have the capacity to deliver on things that we impose on communities. Again, it’s one of those arguments going back to the 13th Assembly, is offloading to communities. We’ll establish legislation here in the Legislature, but realistically trying to have that legislation implemented in all communities does not work. You have to allow some flexibility when you draft legislation to find out that you have unique circumstances where that legislation will not be able to be achieved or receive the same level of success in all communities.

Another one is in the area or firefighting and emergency measures. We all have an obligation with regards to fire suppression and that we have a trained volunteer workforce, but more importantly, be able to deal with emergencies when they come by way of having the capacity to do so. In all communities, yes, we have a volunteer fire department, but again it is a different level of fire suppression or fire response that we have in regards to communities I represent. In most cases we are finding that the community fire response is more of a go there with the volunteer firefighters and basically water down a fire, because you don’t have the capacity and you don’t have the means where you can plug into a fire hydrant or have the water capabilities to be able to really fully fight a fire with the equipment that you have. All you may have is whatever water is in the fire truck, in which you have to access water from a different source after. I think those are the type of things that we have to be realistic of, but more importantly, ensuring communities realistically have not only the equipment but the training and the resources to do what we expect them to carry out, and not fund it on a per capita basis because it does not meet the needs of communities, but more importantly the objective that we have put forward for them to achieve that.

Again in the other areas, in regards to sustainable communities, sustainable communities means more than just basically carrying out municipal programs and services but being realistic that the communities can function as a community by way of having the social economic programs and services, regardless of it is policing, nursing or looking at economic programs and services that other communities take for granted. I think in most cases you wonder why communities are struggling just to maintain staff in communities. A lot of it has to do with the well-being of those staff. You take a teacher, you take a lands officer, an SAO or finance officer, take them to a community and try to tell them once they get there, sorry, there is no nursing or policing. Excuse me, I don’t think they are going to be there too long. I think that is one of the reasons we have such high turnovers in a lot of our communities. We as government have to ensure not only program service dollars, but ensure that the environment that those communities are operating in is also cognizant of the human resource capacity ability for communities to attract people, keep people, and also ensure that the programs and services are universal throughout the Northwest Territories so that all communities can see the benefits that flow from that.

Again, I think that this government has to find a way that communities do have the means, the financial means, but more importantly the financial ability to be able to access resources, and not to continue finding themselves in a competitive area where we are competing community against community for the same resource dollars, especially when it comes to federal infrastructure dollars or even basically having to tell them, sorry, there is only this much money, $330,000, for a particular program, then you find out after the fact that the program dollars that you are earmarking have been already expended because it is an application-based program. There has to be some way that you have dollars allocated by way of classes of communities for ensuring that there is a fair way. If you don’t have an SAO or you don’t have a community planner, or you don’t have a financial officer to assist you on pulling that paperwork together, you lose out a lot of times and a lot of opportunities surpass a lot of communities just because they don’t have the community capacity to take that on.

Again I think it is important in this Legislature that we have to get away from empowering communities but also ensure that we give them the resources and making sure that they have the support that they need to carry out their obligations and basically ensure that we are able to assist them whenever, but more importantly, find ways of taking down the red tape, taking down the barriers that are in place between small rural communities and large urban centres, because there is definitely a discretion as we can see from a lot of federal infrastructure funding that was put out there, which a lot of communities still haven’t been able to carry out the agreements that we have in place or the dollars they have accessed, because of capacity issues, contracting or whatnot. I will leave it at that and see what the responses are from the Minister.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We are on general comments. I have nobody else on my list. Is committee agreed that we have concluded general comments?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say a few words here. I know the government here has been working pretty close with my communities and I was just thinking about Colville Lake. It has been in the news and I have talked to the press about this with the water and sewer facilities in the school and the health centre. What I heard back was that it is a Municipal and Community Affairs issue and a community of Colville Lake issue, not they are working in regards to that infrastructure. I want to ensure members from Colville Lake that this issue here is being worked on. There are certainly other things that need to be included; putting in roads so the school could get their facility up and running. But what I understand from Public Works and Services is that all the materials are there at the school, all the equipment is there, but they don’t have any roads for hauling the water or taking the sewer out. Probably the same situation as the health centre.

I do want to say to the Minister that I hope there are provisions within this short lifespan of our government, now it is about six months, so we can get some movement on there to see where Colville Lake is in the sewer and water facility. I just want to say that and I also want to let the Minister know how much I appreciate, the communities appreciate the use of their resources in the community. When I was talking to the SAO in Tulita, he is very happy that the department released one of its staff people there from the community to help him out in a situation. If we didn’t have Municipal and Community Affairs staff going into our communities, it would have cost the hamlet quite a considerable amount of money to help them with some assessments on some of their infrastructure, so he wanted me to say how much they appreciate the staff being there for the small communities.

I look forward to going through the department’s budget and I want just leave it at that for now. I don’t have too much to say. I think the department is doing pretty good and I will leave it at that. I know the percentage that they give, funding, to the community is probably a good example as to how government should be devolving things over to the communities. Municipal and Community Affairs does put a lot of funding into the communities and I think that is a good example of how we should be operating our governments. Instead of keeping everything in Yellowknife, give it to the communities and the regions.

I just wanted to say that to the Minister. There are some good things happening with MACA and I look forward to having some discussions with him as we go through the detail. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Next I have Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I just wanted this opportunity to comment on a few of the initiatives and a few of the issues in my communities that were raised with me during the course of my community tours. I think the biggest one is that as I tour all the smaller communities, they continue to raise the issues with the New Deal and capacity. They still really do not find that there’s enough money there to run their communities. One of the communities, the cost of street lighting alone far exceeds what was budgeted by the New Deal formula system. I think it was, like, $10,000 or $12,000 a month for community street lighting and I think the formula said they’re only allocated, like, $6,000 or $7,000. So they are finding inconsistencies and shortages as they try to run their communities.

I think I’ve done Member’s statements in the past, Mr. Chair, where I asked. Yes, the New Deal has been around for about two or three years and I strongly feel that it should be evaluated sooner rather than later. I think raising the questions in the House with the Minister, the Minister advises, yes, it’s going to be reviewed, but I’m thinking in a couple of years and I think they need it sooner just to evaluate all the different areas. The communities are still struggling and there’s a reason they’re struggling and I really think that Municipal and Community Affairs should try to find out where their struggles are. I know that they’re sending in staff people to help assist the communities with capital planning, but the capital planning and long-term strategies are okay, but I think it’s the O and M issues that they really have been struggling with. We’ve had lots of capital money, but it’s just the O and M, how to best manage it because they really are experiencing some shortfalls, Mr. Chair. So I really feel that this program should be evaluated sooner than later.

Moving on to another issue is the issue of Fort Liard. I know that when there’s a tragedy in the community such as a death -- and Fort Liard experienced a drowning in the springtime -- we often provide communities with $10,000 worth of emergency funding to assist with the search and rescue. In this case, for whatever reason, MACA did not provide the necessary funds to help the community with $10,000 worth of search and rescue emergency funding. A couple issues there, which I certainly disagree with. One of them was that it wasn’t properly applied for and it wasn’t applied for by the right organization, meaning perhaps the hamlet should have applied. But in other cases in my riding about three or four years ago, the Fort Simpson Band had applied for the funding, they were the call centre, they managed a call centre when they did their search and rescue and they successfully applied and got the $10,000 in search and rescue funding. I still think that the community of Fort Liard, through the ADK Band, should still have access to this $10,000 in emergency funding. They expended all their resources, they took the care and time to set up a cost centre for all expenses because there was lots of expenses like food, fuel, shelter, et cetera, for the 10 days that they were out there searching for one of their loved ones, then only to find that this emergency funding, because of technical reasons, wasn’t available. I really feel strongly that we made the wrong decision there and there’s still time to make it right, Mr. Chair. I really feel that the department should reconsider that. In fact, it is going to be one of my Member’s statements here before the House shuts down for this winter session.

Moving onto another one, I know that MACA is quite involved in emergency firefighting and I think one of the issues by the Village of Fort Simpson was a highway rescue vehicle. There was a huge opportunity, I don’t know if it still exists, that one of the more northern communities did have an actual highway rescue vehicle they had purchased, but it doesn’t really suit the needs for their community. There was an opportunity to transfer it to the Village of Fort Simpson and they did ask the Minister and wrote him a couple of internal memorandums asking him to review the situation. Is there a way to make this work? It was kind of like a win-win. The community relinquishes their highway rescue vehicle and another community actually gets it. I sure wish there was a way to do it. I don’t know if there’s still a way to do it, but we looked at some different options. I still believe that the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs could and should make it happen. There are many tools at his discretion in his ministerial authority to actually make this work. I know that interdepartmental workings, guidelines, procedures are there, but at the same time we’ve got to do the right thing once in a while and make it a win-win situation. I feel strongly about that.

As well, with the community of Fort Simpson it was perceived that the O and M money for the community didn’t actually grow like other communities. I think it was like zero growth for this fiscal year and it was really hard to understand how that worked out.

So those are the key areas that are on my agenda right now, Mr. Chair, but I think as well that MACA should be commended for their expenditures in the youth recreation area. That’s something that really bolsters our community, it creates self-esteem. The Youth Ambassador Program, for example, goes a long ways to show how much support our government has for the youth. We often talk about youth and their supports and this is one way it’s real, its tangible, the youth are learning, they’re getting out there in the communities, they’re getting out to the Olympics, et cetera. Just being out there creates self-esteem and in creating that self-esteem, you can just see kids glowing. They learn better at school, their health and wellness is supported and I’m glad to see it’s going to be a continual line item, Mr. Chair, and I’ll continue to support that and any other expenditures that Municipal and Community Affairs has with the youth.

Those are the notes I have right now, Mr. Chair, and as we deliberate the budget, I’ll certainly say more. Thank you very much. Mahsi cho.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Next I have Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few comments, more general, on the Minister’s opening remarks for the review. I guess the one area where I have a little bit of concern is the community infrastructure funding. I know that the community infrastructure funding is scheduled for a review after five years. I don’t understand why there was no clause negotiated in there that it would be at least indexed to the cost of living and so on. From my understanding, it’s remained at $28 million, at least that particular budget, for the full five years prior to review. So I don’t know if we’re going to have a big increase of 15 percent or something like that when they review, but I would have felt that would have been better to put the escalation in there each year.

Also I wouldn’t mind to see MACA work with the Minister of infrastructure to see what is in place to replace the Canada Building Plan, if the Canada Building Plan has expired, and what is in place to replace that. I think that’s still essential that that type of money, the Building Canada Plan type of money be utilized by the municipalities and hamlets across the Territory.

I think that again, same as for the infrastructure acquisition funding, that the Gas Tax Agreement should go up also every year. I don’t know if it’s gone up in previous years but I know there is no change for this year from last year, this coming budget from this current budget.

I agree with the comments made by the previous MLA talking about the youth programs. I think that the only one we’ve actually put a lot of effort into assisting the youth... I think more should be done, but I think this is a really, really good start. I know that communities could use more infrastructure dollars. It was thanks to the money from the Canada Building Plan that we’re able to construct a youth centre in Fort Resolution. I think we’re going to see some huge results from having a youth centre. I think we’ll see very positive results with the youth coming out of Res and so on because of the youth centre, a place for the kids to go. I think anywhere they have a youth centre they see improvements overall in youth behaviour in the specific community. I think that’s something that’s positive. I think there’s a youth centre in Fort Resolution coming on-line that MACA should put some money in there to operate and put programs in, pay for youth workers and so on, so that centre becomes a viable centre to support the youth in that community. I think the same thing should happen in Lutselk’e.

I think Lutselk’e could use a youth centre. They may have a building there. They’ve tried a couple of buildings in the community as youth centres, but I don’t think they work really well. They just have a residential place converted into a youth centre and it doesn’t really work that well, I don’t believe. Unless they actually went in there and reconstructed a building, I think that might work. In Lutselk’e the kids want to see something similar to what is being built in Fort Resolution and they’re aware of that. They’re hoping that they can ultimately get something like that. If there is no Canada Building Plan in the future, somewhere down the road they gain the support to be able to build something in Lutselk’e.

I guess that kind of leads me to my next thing on the support that the department provides to the hamlets. I would like to see more support. I feel like the money was handed over to the municipalities. Although there is a desire, no question about it, to devolve the responsibilities to the municipal councils and hamlet councils and these communities, I think that there’s still support needed, admin support, support for contracting and support for securing financing. One of the features of having a hamlet council is the ability for them to borrow money and pay back through the infrastructure funding they get in the future, whichever financial arrangements can be made. I think that this department should provide the assistance to the communities to secure financing. An example right now I’m talking about is Fort Resolution again. I know there was some issue with the streets in Lutselk’e so we can never really determine whether or not we want to put any permanent dust suppressant down; however, in Fort Resolution they’re prepared and ready to put some permanent dust suppressant down as in chipseal for the whole community. I don’t know what the total cost would be, but it’s probably greater than the amount of capital that they’re getting on an annual basis, plus that capital is probably spoken for in other projects that they wish to do. The key would be to provide them with support to secure financing. I’m not sure, I think the municipality can do that. They can probably hire their own individual financier to go out and do financing, but I think that we should be there as a government for the community to say maybe you don’t have to pay such a large amount to get a financier to come in and do the financing for you. There may be money that can be borrowed cheaper. I think with support from the government to look at those things, we can get cheaper infrastructure dollars into the community and maybe better financing arrangements. There could be low interest loans that have balloon payments and if there’s a situation set up where repaying the finance back quicker than what is laid out in the agreement and there’s some bonuses in there, that will motivate the hamlets to pay off their infrastructure quicker. Just little things like that.

The whole idea of chipsealing the entire community of Fort Resolution I think has so many benefits to it, it’s hard to just sit here and describe all the benefits. One key factor would be just the market value of the community. Just that alone. I think once you increase the market value of the community and people take more pride in maintenance and maintaining yards and so on and so forth, actually potential to have a quasi-type market in the community which again has lots of long-term benefits. We talk about what happens when you try to deliver housing programs in non-market communities and how little motivation there is to put maintenance into your own unit because there’s essentially no market in the communities. Chipsealing roads, having people start taking care of their yards, actually begins the process of developing a market value for the community. So, in a sense, people gain equity by doing work on their own houses, they gain equity themselves. It’s a start. I think that this government should be there with the people all the way through the process when financing is needed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Any more general comments regarding Municipal and Community Affairs? General comments. If not, I’ll ask the Minister to respond to the general comments so far. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Members for the comments. We do appreciate the comments we got on the money that we’re putting into the youth. We all agree it’s an investment in our future, and the Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly should be proud of the fact that as an Assembly we put more money into youth than I think has ever gone into investing in them before. I think we should all take responsibility for that.

I feel the Members’ talk about the capacity in the communities is challenged and capacity issues in the community. Obviously we recognize that and in working with LGANT and NWTAC, we’ve been able to come up with a training plan. We have successor training. I think in a couple of the smaller communities we have folks in there that are trained to take on the responsibility. In the time I’ve been MACA Minister, the number of AGMs that I’ve gone to with NWTAC and speaking with a lot of the mayors and councillors that are there, I haven’t really heard any of them, they have some concerns but none of them have ever said we don’t want the money, we can’t handle the money, but we do need some training. They recognize that and that’s something that we’re working with them to do. I think Member Beaulieu pointed out, helping them to access financing, we as MACA see our role now as assisting the communities, working with the communities. The ultimate decision, obviously, is theirs and that’s the way it should be, but we will work with them and help them to do borrowing bylaws as we’ve done with a couple of communities. So far we’ve worked with them and they’ve been able to access financing to put a project in place earlier and then just finance it over a few years.

I think as Mr. Krutko or one of the other Members -- I think it might have been Mr. Menicoche -- had talked about was the firefighting and we have identified $300,000 in this particular budget to do the assessments, do some training with the local fire departments, do the assessments on their equipment, and that will go a long way in assisting the community if they have to go out and purchase the equipment. We’re working with them.

The base-plus funding level that we use we feel is the fairest one for the communities. We have one of our smallest communities with 42 people and one of our larger communities... Well, Yellowknife being our largest community. We think it’s a fairly fair process to give them a base plus the number of people they have in the community. That works well for how we allocate our funding and sometimes there’s an argument we use with Canada that we would like to see a base-plus funding when they allocate funding to all the jurisdictions across the country.

We talk about the different investments that are made, and a lot of the investments that you see in the communities now, the communities make the investment that reflects their priorities. We see a few communities that have gone ahead and done youth centres because it was one of their priorities. They’re identifying their priorities, they’re coming up with their infrastructure plans and capital plans for future years.

One of the things that I’ve been most impressed with in the time I’ve been the MACA Minister is the amount of money that each community has invested into the youth through their Building Canada Plan or through the community capacity money that was out a few years ago. We’ve seen a huge investment by the community into the youth.

Mr. Yakeleya’s points on Colville Lake, if communities wanted facilities in the school or the health centre upgraded, they would have to talk to the appropriate departments. We see our role as if they’re talking a sewage lagoon, we would be able to assist them with the planning for that.

Mr. Menicoche, not enough money is what I wrote down. He’s not listening. He didn’t hear me. Anyway, Mr. Menicoche had talked about the amount of money that had been allocated to the communities. I can assure the Members of this House that we are doing an evaluation of the New Deal in 2011-2012 and we’re also doing an evaluation of the O and M funding and this may go a long way in determining the amount of funding that we give out in the future.

I will leave my comments at that and I look forward to getting to the clause by clause or line by line.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Is committee agreed that we move to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-7 is the summary page so what we’ll do is defer page 6-7 until after consideration of detail. So, committee, let’s please move to page 6-8. Page 6-8, Municipal and Community Affairs, department summary, information item, infrastructure investment summary.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-9, Municipal and Community Affairs, department summary, information item, revenue summary. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to revenue joint emergency preparedness, for me I think that’s something that we have to be realistic about, knowing that we do have communities that have seen situations regardless if it’s threatened by floods or threatened by fires, and more importantly, even threatened by storms in which basically communities are impacted. I think that we have to be aware. Again, I notice that there’s been a major decrease in that area. I think, if anything, that we have to ensure that communities are up in regard to their emergency measures plans, and more importantly that they’re able to react and implement those plans at short notice. I’d just like to know why it has decreased by almost $60,000, and more importantly, where are we when it comes to emergency plans in poor communities ensuring that we have the capability of responding to an emergency regardless if it’s floods, fires or just storms that, in some cases, knock the power out or basically have a direct effect on a community’s ability to sustain programs and services. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This line item reflects the federal government decrease in the funding that they’ve provided for us and we’ve tried to respond to it by putting a line item in for the $300,000 that would go towards doing an assessment of some of the emergency services available in the communities. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, Mr. Chair, I’d like to ask the Minister in regard to emergency measure plans that are in place, how many are in place and operational and how many are still being worked on by communities?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Each community would have their own emergency preparedness plan, but I’ll commit to the Member to try to gather the information for him. I’ll commit to the Member to gather the number of communities that have their plans put together. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** In regard to the Building Canada funds, the stimulus funding, again, some of the communities haven’t concluded those expenditures, regardless if it’s solid waste sites and whatnot. I’d just like to know what is the possibility of carrying over those funds to conclude those dollars that have been allocated in regards to the federal stimulus fund or the Building Canada funds. Is there a possibility of carrying those dollars over into 2011-12?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chair, all the money has been allocated and there are some communities obviously facing some challenges. We’re just in the process of having some discussions as to how we can best assist those communities either by an extension of the time they have to complete their projects, but we’ve had fairly good success and a number of communities are getting their projects and will be done on time, but for those that are challenged, we’re just having those discussions now as to possibly having an extension. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chair, as we all heard from the federal government, I thought there was a deadline. I think it’s August 31st, or whatever. It’s a federal deadline and realistically these are federal dollars. Is there a guarantee that we can carry over? Because I know some of my communities still have not been able to deal with their solid waste sites because of the location outside the community or because the way the contracting requirements are under the program in which the costs came in well over the budget that they’re working from. The same thing applies to water treatment plants and whatnot, that you do have to realize that those types of projects take two or three years just to basically have it concluded. So again, what are we doing to deal with that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** With respect to those projects that are funded by Building Canada Plan, there is no hard deadline approaching right now, so they can carry that money over. We will assist them to see those projects through. With respect to the stimulus funding, we are, as the Minister said, in discussions with Canada at this point in time. Results so far are positive for an extension. The deadline across the country for those stimulus projects is October 30th. So for those communities that have identified a request for an extension, we’re working with them on that and we hope to hear soon. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Can the Minister tell me exactly how many communities are in that situation and how communities are requesting a carryover, so that we can get an idea what type of impact this is in regard to community stimulus money?

**MR. AUMOND:** I’d have to confirm, but I believe that there are only three or four communities that are requesting an extension. But I’d have to confirm that for the Member and get back to him. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Can the Minister or the deputy tell us which communities are those?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We don’t have that information right now. We’ll get it and relay it onto the Member. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** If possible, will the government consider bringing in a supp so that we can conclude those projects?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** The money has already been allocated to the community governments so there’s no requirement for a supp. It’s just an extension for them to expend the funds beyond March 31st but before October 31st. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. We’re on page 6-9, revenue summary, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to 6-10, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, active positions summary.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to page 6-13, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, directorate, operations expenditure summary, $4.438 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to page 6-14. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just wondering what the plan is for the additional expenditures in contribution funding for NWT Association of Communities, Local Government Administrators and the Arctic Energy Alliance.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I’ll have Mr. Aumond speak to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The difference in the funding is, I guess, the allocation of core funding to the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories, and that’s the $80,000. That’s the difference showing there on the numbers between this year and last year. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you for that information. So this is not a special allocation or anything like that. This is core funding that’s part of the regular core funding. That’s fine. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. No question. I’ll go to the next person on my list. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much. On this page here, Mr. Chair, it talks about Extraordinary Funding Policy. Can the Minister provide me with examples with some of his emergency funding that he provided in 2010-11?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We haven’t rolled out any funding in 2010-11, but overall we use this for such things as utilidor repairs or we’ve used it in the past for water reservoir refill, some repairs on community centres and land slide repairs. As far as this year, we haven’t rolled out any funding yet. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** I see that the amount stays the same for 2011-12, which is good to see. Just in terms of the Extraordinary Funding Policy, what are some of the guidelines that surround that policy?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally speaking, the criteria for the policy is an event that you couldn’t anticipate or plan for, or something happening to a piece of infrastructure in the community that the community can demonstrate that it doesn’t have the funds to pay for, and if it doesn’t get addressed, could cause some harm or some concern to the public safety or the well-being of the community. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mr. Menicoche. Page 6-14, Municipal and Community Affairs, summary, directorate, grants and contributions, grants, $168,000; contributions, $470,000; total grants and contributions, $638,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Going on to page 6-15, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, directorate, active positions. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to page 6-17, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, public safety, operations expenditure summary. We are going to take a short break and when we come back we are going to go to Mr. Bromley.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Today we are discussing the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. We are on page 6-17. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to public safety, one of the issues in regards to fire safety regulations -- and again I mentioned earlier in my opening comments – and giving the communities and volunteer firefighters in our communities the tools that they need to ensure that they not only have the training and they have the equipment, but more importantly, that we are able to not only enforce the regulations that we put in force but also that we ensure that we have the capacity in our communities to ensure that we are there in regards to protecting the public when it talks about fire prevention, but more importantly, fire retention in regards to as our community is not only vulnerable to fires from within but also fires that come from outside the community regardless, forest fires. In the forest fire season during the summer months, and as we have seen in the situation that we have run into, we are aware that there is the major possibility of major fire season happening in the next while, because we haven’t really had any major fires in the last number of years and realizing that we have to not only have the capacity but have the ability to have trained firefighters in our communities and also elsewhere. I would just like to know from the Minister exactly what are we doing to enhancing the area of training and the equipment that people deserve.

I know that Mr. Jacobson mentioned in the House that the costs for Scott Air Packs and other equipment that they need in regards to fire response but also equipping the firefighters in our communities. They are not only protecting the community but also protecting themselves when they are responding to a fire. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have identified $300,000 that we would use to work with the communities to enhance their training and work with the communities to identify the type of equipment they would need, and the community would have the responsibility of purchasing equipment. We have identified $300,000 that we would use to ensure that all community firefighters are trained and do assessments on each firefighting department. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I would like to ask the Minister exactly, can we see any additional resources in regards to equipment and equipment replacement for firefighters in our communities to ensure that they not only have the training but also have the equipment to carry out their jobs. Are there any funds available in regards to fire suppressant and making sure that they are equipped to respond to fires? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** As a department we don’t have any extra monies that we would be able to put towards this. Some of the communities have identified firefighting equipment in their capital plan and their operations and maintenance. So as far as the department goes, we use the money that we have, that we are hoping gets approved here, to enhance our training and our assessments of each particular communities’ firefighting department. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Looking at the budget, there is an increase of about $100,000 in regards to emergency management. Could you elaborate on that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you. Ms. Gareau.

**MS. GAREAU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is an increase in the area of emergency management and $113,000 of that is part of the $300,000 that the Minister has mentioned and the remainder is due to Collective Agreement increases. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Gareau. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Just another major increase. I noticed that there is some $400,000 increase in the other expenses. Could you break down the other expenses and the $400,000? What is that for?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Gareau.

**MS. GAREAU:** Mr. Chairman, yes, the full $300,000 devoted to emergency management that the Minister has mentioned is in other expenses. The remainder, there is about $90,000 attributable to another forced growth area, which is support, contract support to the Assessment Appeals Tribunal and the board of revision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, again, I noticed that under contract services, a lot of these dollars seem to be expended outwards and not really to deal with the public safety side in regards to fire retention and making sure we... I would just like to know under contracting services, what is that $355,000 for.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Gareau, am I pronouncing your name correctly? Okay, Ms. Gareau.

**MS. GAREAU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the MLA is correct; there is an increase in contract services and, again, it is attributable to the increased funding the department has received for the emergency management area. We anticipate that due to some of the specialized training and supports that community governments may require, we will have to work with external contractors to provide that service. Since we don’t have that, we may not have that expertise on staff. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, could they elaborate on exactly what type of special services they are going to provide by way of those funds?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we are not quite sure exactly what we are going to need yet until we do the assessments to determine the types of specialized trades or the types of specialized training we will have to offer. If we are able to provide that with the folks that we have on staff, we will do that. If we are unable to, then we will have to go to an external contractor. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, again, it would be good to get that information, and more importantly, illustrating exactly how those expenditures are going to be spent what we can do to enhance and support our volunteer firefighters in our communities. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, it is going to be on a community-by-community basis. Once the assessments are done, we will be in a better position to determine the specialized training that we will need and when we are able to do that, identify that, then I will let the Member know how it affects the communities he represents. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to realize that, from these fire responses we had, especially in my riding, again, there have been some challenges that we have run into. I think it is important that we ensure that we focus on those areas that are having the most challenges, but more importantly, making sure that we are working with them to ensure that they are not only doing their job safely but also saving lives and avoiding putting themselves in harm’s way. I would just like to ask that you consider those communities that have shown that they are having some challenges. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we think it’s very important too. That is why we have come forward with a request for fire emergency training, and a lot of it we would obviously target a lot of those communities that have some challenges and need some training. We would obviously have to target those communities first to make sure that they are in a better position to respond to any emergency that is in their community. I can assure the Member that we will take his advice and we will target a lot of the communities where it is found that they are in most need. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Krutko, do you have any more questions? Alright. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, Mr. Krutko asked most of the questions I was going to ask. I was particularly concerned about the 315 additional contract services, especially given that we do have staff that are supposedly specialized in this area. I think one of the things we are finding quite strongly on this side of the House is that we are continually contracting out more and more of our work when we hire top of the line professionals and put them to managing instead of delivering. I think that is a frustration certainly to many people in the Northwest Territories, possibly even to our employees.

I did hear the Minister say contracting, if our staff can’t do the work. I guess I would encourage the Minister to follow up with that and do make best use of the staff and expertise we have. We obviously have several staff in this area. I believe we maybe decreased this position and I disagree with not having the right people on staff and ending up contracting out at a greater cost later. That is mostly by way of a comment, Mr. Chairman. I welcome any response from the Minister, though. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Mr. Chairman, as the Minister stated, depending on what we find in each of the community assessments, if our six staff in the division that we have which includes the regional AFMs can handle it, then we will contract out. Some of the training, though, will be quite specialized and, as the Member knows, we do have staff in the regions. They are assistant fire marshals. But on the emergency management side, we are running desktop exercises and so on and some specialized training. We will likely have to bring in some help from outside to deal with stuff on a one-time basis because we don’t have the staff on hand. In addition, the fire marshal’s office and the assistant fire marshals do have their legislated mandated duties that they have to do and that the training requirement, although part of their job, depending on their caseload at the time, we may have to bring in that outside help as required. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Next on my list is Mr. Jacobson.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just picking up from my colleague Mr. Krutko’s questioning in regards to the equipment and the comments from the Minister regarding the bunker year and the Scott Air Packs and the funding that could reallocate the funding from the training into getting gear. Is that possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we have budgeted $300,000 for fire emergency training and that is what we intend to use the money for, because we realize the importance of getting out there. We probably have quite a few places that we would have to work with. As I was saying in response to an earlier question, some communities have identified firefighting equipment in their capital plans. We would continue to work with the community, do an assessment with them and have the communities take up the responsibility of bringing in the needed fire equipment with their infrastructure dollars. Thank you.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Mr. Chairman, this is in regards to that. It is pretty tough to fight a fire when you don’t have the proper gear in the communities that are one of the smaller communities. In Sachs Harbour, all their bunker gear was soaked in sewage. They tried to wash it out. They can’t get the stink out. I think if the fire marshal’s office would go into the community, the fire truck is still, I think, in the cold storage. Just people’s safety, like Mr. Krutko said. There are fires in the communities that we have trouble fighting fires. You are on the defence if you can’t go in the offensive stages of a fire. I think we could look at reallocating some of that funding, just a little bit of it, just to make sure that bunker gear and Scott Air Packs are available to the communities. Thank you. More of a comment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. No question, but I will go to the Minister for a response anyway.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We respect the work that the volunteer firefighters have to do, it is why we have asked for $300,000, to make sure that they are properly trained and we also respect the fact that the communities realize the importance of providing the gear, which should be a well-trained volunteer fire department. Some communities have identified it. Our plan is to use all the $300,000 towards training and make sure all the volunteer firefighters are trained up properly. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. We’re on page 6-17, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know this question was raised earlier on this page, but in regard to emergency management and response for territorial and community emergency management and planning, including search and rescue, again, I think a lot of communities who have had situations using Aklavik, for instance, with their floods and whatnot, every time there’s a flood they pull together and they respond to emergency measures. There’s recommendations made so that you can learn from those experiences, but more importantly, that you find ways to not only prepare for those types of situations but that you enact an emergency plan when you have an emergency. Again, that takes resources, that takes money, and I think that we have to do a better job of not only ensuring that those plans are drafted in such a way but also having the capacity to implement those plans and ensuring that they have the resources and the ability to carry out those emergency plans and implement them.

I’d like to know exactly what are we doing to ensure that the emergency management plans are not only prepared, but do we have the capacity to implement those plans when we have a fire or have a major flood in a community so that we’re not in a situation that we’re being reactive, but ensuring that we’re proactive and we’re able to respond to these things and prepare for them ahead of time knowing that we will follow the plans when they’re here. I know in the case of Aklavik, we’ve gone through few floods over the years, but we have learned from a lot of that. Again, there have been a lot of recommendations that have come out of that after the fact in regards to implementing measures so that there’s a way that we can prevent.

One of the things that they’re doing in the community of Aklavik is in regard to drainage systems, looking at the right drainage and more importantly protecting government assets at airports and community facilities. That takes money and that takes planning. You’ve got to build that into your community plans.

So what are we doing to ensure that we’ve not only developed these plans, but implement them at the same time?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chair, part of the $300,000 would be to work with the communities, as we were saying before, in their training. The Member used Aklavik as an example and it’s actually a very good example, because having been in Aklavik for a few of the floods that happened there, I got to see firsthand the local emergency planning group in action. They get together, they have a plan and when emergencies such as this happen, they put the plan into action. They do it with whatever folks they have in the community, they do it with their own resources and a lot of it volunteer. It’s a working committee that has housing a part of it, the hamlet is a part of it, the band could be part of it. So we see firsthand the response to some of the communities and we see our role in it with the $300,000 is to help with the training for fire and emergency.

I kept referring to fire before, but it’s fire and emergency training and we’d be able to do some training with them, but knowing a lot of the communities across the Northwest Territories and their ability to respond to crisis and a lot of them have their own little emergency preparedness committees and they’re very well aware of the situations that they face in their particular community and we see our role in supporting them in some of the mitigating measure they have to take. I think we’ve seen that with the drainage system, as the Member pointed out, and after the last flood there was the whole redoing of all the roads, which should help and I think the drainage will help a lot. We will never be able to predict the floods, especially in a community like Aklavik where it’s very unpredictable. It doesn’t matter with all the measures you take to try to prevent it, the fact is, Aklavik floods regularly, almost 10 years to the day and it’s an historical fact.

So I think we see our role as supporting the community and the community takes the initiative and they do a very good job at it. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** One of the things we’re seeing more and more with fire departments and volunteer firefighters is that they’re taking on more responsibilities such as highway rescue and search and rescue, with people going through the ice. We’re finding that we’re seeing more of those types of incidents happening where people are having to do search and rescue. Again, it’s usually the volunteer fire department that has to end up doing a lot of these things, because either the resource people aren’t doing it or we have to depend on someone else to do it for us. But what we’re finding is that it’s usually the volunteer firefighters that are having to respond to emergencies on the highway, having to go out there with a fire truck, or in most cases having to deal with these accidents and disasters on our highway systems because they’re the closest community. Yet again they’re doing stuff that they’re really not trained for and don’t have the equipment to deal with highway rescue. Simply because they have a fire truck, they’re responding to it, because they’re the closest community to these accidents.

It’s the same thing when people go through the ice. We’ve had a couple of situations in Fort McPherson where a few people lost their lives just within the municipal boundary, people going through the ice and people are trying to do search and rescue on ice, which again they don’t have the equipment to be doing that type of rescue on thin ice in the fall time when the ice is moving. Again, there are two types of situations where we’re putting community volunteer firefighters who are trying to do stuff where technically they’re in a situation where they have no choice. They have to respond to these accidents on the highway, these situations where people have lost their lives from going through the ice because of the time of year and whatnot.

Again, that’s the type of stuff from a community perspective we are having to deal with. Is it fair to those people that are putting their lives on the line and not ensuring that we’re not only providing the training in regard to those types of rescues, whether it’s a highway accident rescue or a water rescue? So what do we do in that case and what resources are there for the communities to get the training required to take on those types of responsibilities where other agencies aren’t accessible or close enough to respond?

Right now we have ambulance services. I know we’re coming to that, but the only ambulance service we have in the Inuvik region is funded out of Inuvik. But in the fall time when the ferries are out, it’s the community volunteer firefighters who are stuck in the situation of responding to it. So what do we do in those types of situations in regard to search and rescue such as highway rescue and water searches that have to be conducted when people have either lost their lives or have drowned in the community boundaries?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I see that is where this $300,000 could be used for all the proper training. We recognize the fact that we have a lot of people in our small communities that do this type of work, and they volunteered to do this type of work and we want to do our part to ensure that a lot of these folks are adequately trained to take on a lot of this work. I mean, I think the Member and I have both seen firsthand a number of cases where folks have gone through the ice, and even when they do call off the official search, it’s always the local people that have the knowledge and the ability to continue searching and we continue to see that.

But we see our role in the $300,000 is to ensure that those that volunteer in the communities are adequately trained so that it’s safe for them and they’re able to do, I wouldn’t say a better job because they all do a very good job now, but they’ll be able to do a job knowing that they have some training. We see that as where we could be very beneficial to a lot of the volunteers in the community. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, we have some 33 communities, every one of them unique, every one of them with challenges, but $300,000 is money but it’s not enough. I’d like to know what we’re doing to try to access federal program dollars for the emergency resources that may be under federal funding, whether it’s through the Coast Guard funding or funding for emergency responses. I’d like to know if there’s anything we can do as the government or working with federal agencies to access federal dollars to assist communities in these application-based situations. That’s the problem, is that some communities have the capacity to get these applications in and have a good case, but for $300,000 we have 33 communities to assist. What are we doing to access federal funding?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The Member points out that we have a number of communities and fortunately we have some of the larger communities that are able to access training for their volunteer and local fire departments as well as emergency training. We see this $300,000 as a start. It’s $300,000 that we’ve never had a line item for before. We see this as a start. Hopefully we can build on it from there.

I’ll ask Mr. Aumond to touch on the federal part of it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to accessing federal programs, as we discussed earlier, when we look at the revenue summary of the department, the federal government has done an across-the-board reduction in terms of the JEPP program across the country. There’s less money actually available from the feds. Public Safety Canada is operating a college that community staff or volunteers can access. The cost of the training, once you’re there, is free. The community will have to pay for the transportation and lodging, but the training component of that is free. That has been accessed by GNWT and community people in the past and we do continue to promote that.

We do also promote communities to try and take advantage of JEP, as limited as that might be. We do put forth any submissions we do get from the communities for the JEPP funding as well.

I guess I would leave it at that, but the amount of federal money that is available for this type of activity is limited. We try to take advantage of it when we can.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Next on my list… Actually, there is nobody left on my list. Page 6-17, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, public safety, operations expenditure summary, $1.527 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-18. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions here. I’m trying to determine where things are at with this ground ambulance and highway rescue contributions to communities. When we did business plans, some of the information that we got indicated that there were fewer communities applying for this funding. At the same time, I believe that there is a limit that any one community can get in terms of this funding. I think it’s $40,000. I’d like to start with that and get confirmation on two things: are there fewer applications on this funding and is there a limit to what a community can get?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct; there is a $40,000 cap. We’ve had three applications, I think, that we’re looking at right now for this year. We had the one from last year.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks for that confirmation. If there are fewer applications and even if we only have three for this current fiscal year at $40,000, we’re still under the $200,000 that is available. I’m wondering whether or not the department has considered paying actuals to the communities that do encounter expenses beyond their communities. Yellowknife, for instance, does spend money for ground ambulance and highway rescue outside the city boundaries; down on the Ingraham Trail, for instance. I’d like to know whether or not the department has ever considered paying actuals to a maximum sum. I could see actuals could get us well beyond $200,000, but if one community is expending $60,000 and is only getting $40,000, then they’re $20,000 in the hole. That’s my rationale for asking if we would ever pay actuals.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** It’s not something that we’ve ever considered, because we have some of the larger centres that use their actuals in some cases may be more than $200,000 and that won’t leave very much, if any, for some of the smaller communities that are hoping to access this funding.

**MS. BISARO:** So I guess the next question would be if there are applications and the money at that $40,000 cap each is going to be less than the $200,000, would the department consider expending the remaining money in the $200,000 fund to a cap of actual? If people are applying for more money than the $40,000 that they’re going to get back, would we consider expending the full amount of the $200,000 so that they at least get more of their actual expenses?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not yet given that any type of consideration. There is no hard deadline as to when the community may apply, so in theory we could get applications all the way up to March 30th, March 31st. If we were to expend the money before then, we wouldn’t have any money left over for those who applied later.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. I guess that I would ask that the department consider that. You could certainly hold applications until a certain date and then process them after a certain date so people would have an opportunity to make sure that they got their application in. I am somewhat concerned that there are communities, and not only Yellowknife, that are spending money on ground ambulance and highway rescue beyond what the department is giving them back, and they are doing that ground ambulance and highway rescue outside of their community boundaries.

I wondered whether or not the department is looking at this particular program. I know there was a committee that investigated it and it was determined -- I think it was a co-departmental committee -- that we should not enact legislation relative to ground ambulance and highway rescue. Somewhere in the documentation that I read recently, there was a consideration or statement made to perhaps expand this program to winter roads. I wondered if that is something the department is considering or is that now off the table.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the winter road, no, we’re not contemplating expanding this program to deal with winter roads nor are we contemplating expanding this program other than in its current form. The Minister did speak to this issue at the NWTAC AGM in Hay River, where the committee concluded its work and we sort of notified communities that, I guess, to enhance the services and provide for legislation of this type of service would run in the area of several million dollars a year that we just don’t have the resources for. The $200,000 is what we have to date and, really, that’s what’s on our radar screen going forward.

**MS. BISARO:** That’s all I have. Mr. Aumond answered my next question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Next on my list is Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Just with the grants and contributions for ground ambulance and highway rescue, the Village of Fort Simpson has been asking about this line item for some time now and of course the concern is that if there is an incident on the highway system, then the fire department has to leave the community with the only fire truck that is available, leaving the community at risk for a little while there. That’s a concern. I think the Minister is on the working group for the ground ambulance and highway rescue and did indicate it would be in the millions of dollars. However, like I mentioned earlier in my opening remarks, there was an opportunity working with another northern community of utilizing their highway rescue vehicle which didn’t suit the needs in their community and they’re willing to discuss an option with the Village of Fort Simpson. They did come up with one unique solution there that they are eligible for the $40,000 on an annual basis under this line item and we did ask the question, if they did get a good deal on that truck -- it would be about $160,000 -- could they use that contribution amount, take it to the bank and say we want to buy this vehicle today and because we’re getting a transfer of $40,000 for the next four years... That’s the kind of nice unique solution that would answer highway public safety concerns, community concerns about coverage, about the ambulance remaining in the village.

That is a real concern, is what happens if there is a double incident. What happens if they refuse to go out to an accident site with their fire truck? It’s kind of like a conundrum. They are obligated to go because they are getting contributions, and probably refusing to go on the highway is probably contrary to an oath they take as firefighters, as first aiders, et cetera. At the same time, they did come up with a unique solution that was offered to the Minister’s office and I’d like to raise it once again.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is aware of the issue that the Member is raising. I know the Minister and ourselves did try to work with the Village to come up with a way for them to purchase the vehicle in question. The $40,000 under the Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Program is for small equipment, manuals, training, and those types of expenses. It’s not meant to be a capital expense. The purchase of the vehicle in question would be. So we tried to find a way in the current capital plan of the Village to work that in and we just weren’t able to make it happen at that time. It’s not like we weren’t trying to be helpful, but it is a capital item and unfortunately we couldn’t find a solution for the Member or the Village at that time. If things have changed, we’d be more than happy to sit down with the Village and see what we can work out again.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** I’d like to thank Mr. Aumond for that response. I think if there’s a way to work with the Village of Fort Simpson and to work with MACA to go to the bank and say there’s a contribution here that won’t impact their budget too much, I’d certainly like to see that kind of dialogue and I’d certainly like to facilitate that kind of dialogue as well. I’ll take that into consideration. I do have a trip planned to Fort Simpson by the week’s end. I’ll certainly raise it with Mr. Mayor and his council and see if they’ve had any more thinking around this. The other fact is, is that opportunity still available too for that highway rescue vehicle?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member said that he was going to have discussions with the Fort Simpson mayor. As far as the vehicle the Member’s raising, I’m not sure if it’s still in Tulita. I’m not sure where it’s at right now. We’d have to find that out. Once the Member meets with the mayor, I’d appreciate if he could give me an update on what their wishes are in the community.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Next on my list, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it’s an application-based program and certainly Fort Simpson and Fort McPherson have been responding to accidents on the highway. They’ve had situations where people have died on the highway and they’ve had to go up and respond to that. I think that from the experience of those responses that the community has gone to, that we would have to ensure that they’re not equipped but also allow them the training they require to do those types of responses. In some cases they’re pretty gory and I don’t think anybody wants to come upon an accident and realize that there’s loss of life there. I think people respond differently to those situations, but again, it’s something that is with you for a period of time. I think that we have to not only equip those people but also train them for what they’re going to get themselves into.

I’d just like to know, in regard to the $200,000, so you’re saying that it’s up to $40,000. What has been the uptake by the $200,000 previous for this program? Have all the dollars been expended and, if so, where have you expended the $200,000 previous?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chair, as I was saying earlier, we have three applications for this year. I think we had one from last year. In the Member’s community, one of the communities that we thought this would be best geared towards has not ever accessed the money. I would encourage them, because they would qualify for it or they would be eligible for it. I would encourage them to apply.

The uptake is not being where we thought it would be with the communities that we had identified that would have been able to access some of this funding. As I said, we have three this year and we had one last year. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Chair, again, like Mr. Menicoche, I would inform the hamlet that this funding is there and they have had some situations with the SAO and whatnot and having to find an SAO, so they have been without an SAO for some time. But again, I know that Fort McPherson has been able to access federal funding where they were able to purchase Jaws of Life and they purchased an emergency canopy that sits on the back of a vehicle. They were able to access federal funding so that they basically can do some highway rescue. But again, I think it’s something that I think is important that we do work with those communities, especially highway communities, realizing it’s a long ways between Fort McPherson and Dawson City. If you have a situation on a highway and someone has to go out there, again, in most cases it’s the closest community to these incidents and accidents, and as we all know, the worst part of the Dempster Highway is right at the Yukon border where we have seen a lot of loss of life in that area. I think that, if anything, that is the most hazardous part of the road that we do have. I think that we have to, again, ensure we equip those individuals. With that, I’d just like to thank the Minister, and again, I will be talking to the Hamlet of Fort McPherson to apply on this fund. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** You can inform the hamlet that if they need any assistance with the application funding, to contact the regional office. We have been able to assist them accessing some of the JEPP money that was out there that they were able to utilize. We’d be more than willing to assist the community. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. We’re on page 6-18, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, public safety, grants and contributions, contributions, $200,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to page 6-19, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, public safety, active positions. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe this fiscal year we approved a special accelerated or extra special program in capacity building. That still remains a big issue in our communities and I’m wondering if we can get some kind of progress report on that. I’d like to ask the Minister if that program continues into this… Sorry, did I jump the page here?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Depends what page you’re on. I’m still on 6-19 waiting for it to be approved. Okay, 6-19, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, public safety, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Now we’ll move on to 6-20 and we’ll go to Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I’m wondering if I can get an update on the extra-special capacity building efforts we had this fiscal year; where we’re at with that and if that’s going to be extended into 2011-12. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is one initiative that we’re quite fond of and it’s going along really well. It’s actually through the School of Community Government. It’s a public service capacity initiative. I’m sure that’s the one the Member is referring to, the $1 million that we’d approved to put into that. I’m not sure if I have the information with me but I would be able to provide Members with some of the communities where the money’s been allocated and some of the training that’s taken place in some of the communities. I think we have two small communities where they have like a succession training where they’ve taken a local person and they’re training them to be the SAO down the line once they get all the proper training. It’s a program that’s working very well and we do plan on continuing the program. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate the Minister’s remarks there. I’ll look forward to that information. Am I on the right page here? Is that funded? No. Thank you. I’ll leave it at that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. No question. Page 6-21, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, community operations, operations expenditure summary, $2.533 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to page 6-22. Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, community operations, grants and contributions, contributions, $50,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to 6-23, Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I’d just like to ask the Minister why is it that all the positions are at headquarters. Shouldn’t they be closer to the communities if that’s who we’re servicing is the community operations? Why haven’t we looked at the possibility of devolving these positions closer to the communities they serve?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. These 15 positions you see in Yellowknife support the community… The positions the Member is talking about are in the regional offices, and that is our biggest allocation of our employees, is in the regional ops. But the 15 here support the folks in the regional offices. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Chair, I had a question on community energy plans. I don’t see them mentioned specifically here. Are those the community operations or regional operations or…

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you. Mr. Bromley, are you looking for clarification on what section of the main estimates that might be under? Okay. I’ll go to the Minister. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The Member can probably ask his question in the School of Community Government once we get to that, and I think it’s right on the next page.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. In that case, we’ll just finish with 6-23. Page 6-23, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, community operations.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to 6-24, 6-25. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I’m having a hard time connecting this to the School of Community Government with the community energy plans that were required under the New Deal, but I’m wondering, we did approve community energy plans for all our communities as part of the integrated sustainability plans. I’m wondering where we are in implementing those and are we starting to see fuel costs, at least, energy costs, go down, albeit I recognize the payback isn’t immediate and we may have some capital costs and so on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Specifically, with respect to community energy planning or generally to the integrated community sustainability plans, it’s in the School of Community Government. That’s where it’s located, but we actually have, I guess, a team approach where we use our regional superintendents along with some folks at headquarters along with folks in the NWTAC where we sort of look at the integrated sustainability plans as the whole energy component is one. Last year the task was to try and develop the plans and get them approved. We’ve done that so, really, this is just the first year of implementation for most of them, so we don’t have any hard data on where we are or what any savings would be as this was the first year. Our hope would be, though, is that after next year at this time, we should be able to report some concrete, I guess, results about where we are with not only the community energy planning but with the whole Integrated Community Service Plan as we proceed with that. We do have some special efforts underway next year, if the budget is approved for that, to continue on not only the energy planning but the entire Integrated Community Service Plan. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you to the deputy minister for those comments. I look forward to seeing that information on how we are doing and the lessons learned along the way. I wanted to ask, also, in the School of Community Government, there should clearly now be a component to every bit of training and educational programs that we undertake, a component that relates to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Has that been incorporated into each and every one of our programs now, training programs? Thank you.

**MR. AUMOND:** I guess directly the answer is no, it is not; indirectly the answer is probably yes, because, for example, the school, we have a recreational maintainer course, which talks about maintaining arenas and recreational facilities and so on, and part of the knowledge and expertise and experience that as a government we would bring to bear on that, would be about trying to maximize your lifecycle costs or minimizing your lifecycle costing of operation of that building, which would mean getting your heating systems and your ventilating systems as efficient as you can to provide some extra cash and also to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

The Member might be interested to know that the NWTAC is leading a climate change workshop coming up very shortly where communities will be participating along with government staff on talking about that subject in some depth. We don’t have that in every single course that we teach, or the community government teaches or puts on for community governments in a direct way, but I would make the suggestion that in an indirect way we are always looking for efficiencies and ways to get the most out of our limited resources that we have with communities, and that everybody is paying attention to the environment and there is lots of work going on at the communities in terms of their capital plans around mitigation and adaptation, mostly adaptation. But the answer to the Members’ question is not directly, no. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Again, I appreciate Mr. Aumond’s remarks. I believe I actually am registered for that and I believe it is in concert with a non-government organization and so on, but a very progressive piece of work there.

I guess, I appreciate that approach, but I think that what we want to do at the same time given our, perhaps, privileged understanding of the situation, what is coming down the pipes, so to speak, is to explicitly make those connections, connect the dots here between issues. So I am glad it is in there almost inadvertently but necessarily, but I think that if we can start to recognize why and how and identify the issues, it can spill over into a way of thinking and looking to the future. I will leave it at that and appreciate that that work is started. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We are on page 6-25, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, School of Community Government, operations expenditure summary, $3.202 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Okay, moving along to 6-26, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, School of Community Government, grants and contributions, grants, $830,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-27, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, School of Community Government, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Okay, moving along to 6-28, 6-29, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering about the half million extra again that we are putting into contract services, and looking below I assume this is largely for property assessment, so surely to goodness Municipal and Community Affairs has that expertise within its department. I mean, why do we hire professionals? We want these people to be doing the work.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we couldn’t agree with the Member more; however, the expertise that we did have around industrial assessment, unfortunately that employee passed on and they are in short supply across the country; all kinds of assessors. So what we have decided to do, with the permission of the House, is we have had some success in taking local people and trying to train them to become assessors, but that is a five or six-year process, so we still need... We still have a legislated requirement to undertake the property assessment function and we will be using contract expertise to do that. We will be using the vacant money that we have for the positions to establish trainee positions so that we can get northern people involved in the profession, hopefully, so that we no longer have to hire contractors to do this. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** It sounds like there is some tragic circumstances here, but it doesn’t detract from the lack of succession planning, which is obviously gone here. I mean, we have to create an emergency before we work and plan in these areas, and I think this is the sort of thing we are starting to see in more places as we go through this budget, so I am glad it is happening now, but I hope in other areas, other divisions and departments, we don’t have to wait for that situation to develop.

I wanted to ask one other question. The new amended Commissioner’s Land Act has just come into force on February 14th with its land security provisions for leasing and so on. Where are we at with that? Do we have regulations developed and are staff on top of implementing that now? Thank you.

**MR. AUMOND:** The regulations that the Member is referring to are now in force. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Mr. Bromley, no more questions? We are on page 6-29, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, lands administration, operations expenditure summary. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have got more of a technical thing for the Minister and his deputy; hopefully they can answer it for me. During the last constituency visit to Fort Liard, I had a couple of constituents who do get land taxes, they get land taxes on the land they are on but they don’t know if they actually own the land. Anywhere else in the world you pay taxes on land that you own, so they ask me to raise the issue, so I thought it was a good opportunity. Perhaps the Minister can answer that. I know that people that lease land, that actually have the deed to the lease of the land, they are actually paying the same taxes as these people who don’t own the land, so they are kind of confused about what that process is about. They never actually bought the land. If they are paying the same amount as owning the land, why isn’t that opportunity there for them to own it or lease it? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would have to get the details and then we would have to get the details of the land. We don’t know if it is Commissioner’s land or if it is Indian Affairs branch land, so once we have, if the Member could provide us with some details, then I would commit to the Member we will follow up on it and we will have an answer back to him very shortly. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** That is what I expected. It is a little bit more technical in nature and I will be glad to provide a written internal memorandum to the Ministers’ office. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Next on my list, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question here. I recall, I think it was last year, it may have been two years ago, but certainly I think both when we were discussing NWT Housing Corporation and Municipal and Community Affairs, we talked about land ownership issues for the Housing Corporation to have ownership of lands on which they wanted to build houses in various communities. There was some work I think that MACA was doing at that time in terms of I think making things a little easier and getting things settled. I just wondered if I can get an update on where that issue is at. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Mr. Chairman, we continue to work with the Housing Corporation on that issue. We are making progress, although it is not I guess steady progress as we would like and it is not even across the Territory, but we do have a good close working relationship with the Housing Corporation on this issue to try and rectify those problems where we can. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Mr. Chairman, thanks to the deputy minister for that. My other question has to do with a newspaper article that I saw a little while ago. It had to do with the selling of a parcel of land to the Norman Wells Land Corporation. I’m curious as to the process. My understanding is that at least some of this land, if not all of it, was within the block land transfer for the Town of Norman Wells. I was curious as to how the government could basically sell land out from underneath the nose of the Town, so to speak. Could I get an explanation as to what kind of a process applies, if it is conceivable that the government can sell land from within any community’s block land transfer? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, the folks that purchase the land followed all the process as they were laid out. This particular piece of land is outside the community’s boundaries. Its block land transfer was outside the boundary. They are in the process of going to lease the land from the Commissioner, but we have had a lot of back and forth with the community and with the Norman Wells Land Corporation. They have followed the process as we have laid out. It is not like we sold or leased the land out from under them. There is still quite a bit of Commissioner’s land within town boundaries that, if they choose to, they can access it. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Mr. Chairman, thanks to the Minister. I am still not totally clear if the land that was sold was within the Town of Norman Wells block land transfer. I will try another example. If, for instance, in the area of the block land transfer for the City of Yellowknife -- it extends I think out to the Yellowknife River -- if there was a parcel of land somewhere before the ending of the block land transfer boundary for the City of Yellowknife, if somebody wanted to purchase that land from the GNWT, would they be able to do that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Mr. Chairman, I guess the answer to that question is yes, provided that all the conditions for sale would take place, and they are much the same as they are for Commissioner’s land within a boundary. We have a process. We have a pricing policy that comes into effect. The communities get consulted. In the case of Norman Wells, the block land transfer was outside the community boundaries and the community was consulted. Commissioner’s land can be leased. It can be sold as the case may be. There is a process that gets followed, whether it is a small parcel of land or it is a large parcel of land. In this case, there was no sale of land. It is being leased. This is pretty much the same process that gets followed. It was followed in this case. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Aumond. I am not pointing fingers here at all. I am trying to understand the situation, please. I am not meaning to be offensive, if I am. I guess I would like to know what steps need to be followed. What process does exist that needs to be followed? If, for instance, there were to be a sale within the block land transfer for the City of Yellowknife and the City was not agreeable, would the community that “has the block land transfer” have veto power? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, the short answer is no, they wouldn’t have veto power. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Mr. Chairman, I just have one last request. Is it possible that committee could see the outline of the process that is followed when land is sold? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we can share that with committee. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. We are on page 6-29, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, lands administration, operations expenditure summary, $3.248 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** We are moving along to page 6-30, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, lands administration, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** We are moving along to page 6-32, 6-33, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, sport, recreation and youth, operations expenditure summary, $5.179 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** We are moving along to page 6-34, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, sport, recreation and youth, grants and contributions, grants, $100,000. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other thing I did a statement in the House about was supporting our youth drummers. I would like to ask the Minister. Is it somewhere in one of these contribution programs that a proposal may fit in there, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, we are always wanting to do what we can to support the cultural activities of the youth across the Northwest Territories. In this particular one, it would either go on a youth contributions, youth corps, but I caution the Member that we support the cultural aspect of it. But when it comes to competing for prize money, then MACA is very hesitant in supporting groups that go on a competition for prize money. We have had requests for some hockey teams to contribute to them, but they are going to play for prize money. The cultural part of it, where they just go and showcase their hand games, then we would look at it on a case-by-case basis. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wondered again for the reduction of the youth corps funds and the increase in the pan-territorial sports programs, are those related to each other? Maybe I can just get some details on those. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Mr. Chairman, the Pan-Territorial Sports Program has been increased because the federal contribution to that program has increased. It is something that is matched between ourselves and the feds. The youth corps reduction, although you see a reduction in youth corps, really what we have done is taken $150,000 out of the youth corps money and created the permanent Youth Ambassador Program so it is still money spent within youth. It is just being reprofiled within that envelope. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Next on my list is Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions here. First of all, I mentioned last year that we seem to have an awful lot of youth contributions. I have suggested that the department needed to look at them and see whether or not they can be combined. I have great difficulty in looking at these and seeing how some of them are different from others. The youth centre is one, that is pretty self-explanatory, but I fail to see the difference between the youth contributions and the youth corps.

The other thing that concerns me is we also have contributions to youth corps and youth contribution programs and regional youth sports events on page 6-41. There are huge amounts of money here to youth, which is a good thing, but I am wondering why we have it in two different places. First of all, why do we have so many different pots of money? Why do we have it in two places? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the way we have this sorted out is it’s historically been that way and I suppose if we tried to lump them all together, we’d be explaining why we made the changes we made. However, having said that, there is youth money in the regional ops section of the department and there’s youth money in sport, rec and youth. Generally youth corps funding is for those territorial-wide programs and the youth contributions are for those regional or community type of activities, which is why it’s on this particular page. It’s quite small in comparison with what you’d see at the regional ops page.

I do hear what the Member is saying and we do have to work with the format that we are provided, as well, but I guess we can always try something better. Really, some of these programs are distinct and we do try to highlight them for ease of explanation. I think a lot of them are, if you look at the multi-sport games, you know what that’s for, but the difference between the youth corps is generally territorial-type programs, Take a Kid Trapping, for example, whereas the youth contributions are for a specific community or regional program that happen normally on a one-time basis while the core money is stuff that happens on a multi-year basis. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you. Maybe I ought to wait until page 6-41, but the youth corps, if it’s territorial, we’ve got $675,000 on this page and another $500,000 in regional operations. So maybe I’ll ask the question when we get there.

The other question I wanted to ask on this page has to do with the amount for volunteer contributions and at some point it was increased from $20,000 to $70,000 and I’m glad to see that that has gone up. It’s still nowhere near the money that it should be and we don’t have the structure that we should in terms of volunteers, but it’s a good thing we’ve got a little bit more money.

I did read, though, in the information from business planning, that support for volunteerism is $150,000 and I wondered where the other $80,000 shows up in the budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Ms. Gareau.

**MS. GAREAU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The other funding for volunteer contributions, or, sorry, to support volunteers shows up in the O and M area of the division. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Okay, I need to know where the O and M expenses are in here and I have no idea. Thank you.

**MS. GAREAU:** On page 6-33 there’s a summary of details of other expenses, as well as the program delivery details at the bottom for volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Gareau. Ms. Bisaro, is it clear?

**MS. BISARO:** Yes, it is indeed there. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Thanks, Ms. Gareau. So if there’s $70,000 in contributions, I guess I’d like to know what the other, the 236 to 180-something thousand dollars, what that’s used for. I mean, I presume its PYs and so on, but is it all expended within the division of sport, recreation and youth for staffing, or does some of it go to programs? Thank you.

**MS. GAREAU:** Yes, the MLA is correct; it does go to support volunteer activities of staff in the division. I can provide a breakdown of that program area if the Member requires that information. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Ms. Gareau. No, I think if it’s the same information that we got during business plans, I have it already. So if it’s changed, then, yes, I’d like it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. No question. We’re on page 6-34, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, sport, recreation and youth, grants and contributions, grants, $100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-35, contributions, total grants and contributions, $3.357... Oh, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe we’re on 6-35. I just wondered with the Get Active NWT $100,000, that seems to be a new program. Is this federal dollars?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister McLeod. Ms. Gareau.

**MS. GAREAU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, this is not a new program. Get Active NWT has been run by the department for at least three of four years now. We were previously funding this money out of O and M. None of the expenses have changed, it’s just we’re more appropriately reflecting that this is grants and contribution funding. So what we’ve done is an internal reallocation to move it from operations and maintenance funding into grants and contributions funding. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Gareau. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is there an outdoor focus on these dollars or would the Minister consider putting an outdoor focus on these dollars? That would help focus these dollars on other healthy initiatives that we have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a very strong outdoor component to the Get Active NWT: snowshoeing, Nordic walking, Dene games, cross-country skiing. So there’s a very strong outdoor component to this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Next on my list, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have one question with regard to this particular grant as well. I wondered whether or not the Get Active grants and contributions fund has been fully subscribed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is fully subscribed.

**MS. BISARO:** One other question on this page in regard to the Healthy Choices Initiative, I understand it supports after school physical activity programs, which I think is great and my understanding is also that it was quite well used last year. But I am somewhat concerned, and I’ve mentioned this before at other departments, that we have programs related to healthy activities for children and youth in several departments and I wonder whether or not we have the proper coordination of these programs. You know, MACA is spending $615,000 here and Health spends $400,000 elsewhere. My understanding is that departments meet and talk about these things, but are we really achieving a coordinated attack on getting our kids to make healthy choices? I wonder about that. I’d appreciate the Minister’s comment. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** With the after school physical activity program, we do work very closely with Health and Social Services, ECE, and our program is fully subscribed to. We have a list of all the schools in the Territories that are accessing some of the funding and some of the programs that they’re offering. So we work very closely with our sister departments to ensure that we’re fairly well coordinated. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks for the info. I guess my last question would be, are you quite confident then, Mr. Minister, that what MACA is doing for healthy choices initiatives is complementary to what all the other departments are doing? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The answer is yes, I’m very confident that what we’re doing is working in conjunction with our sister departments. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. We’re on page 6-35, grants and contributions, $3.357 million, total grants and contributions, $3.457 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to page 6-36, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, sport, recreation and youth, active position.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Moving along to 6-38/39, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to reference the latest amendment to the Commissioner’s Land Act. I note that regional land staff assist community governments with community land administration planning activities and administer leases for Commissioner’s lands. Has all our regional staff been brought up to speed and what is the mechanism for informing staff to make sure that they’re up to date on our legislation? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senior managers or the regional superintendents in each of the regions meet weekly with the senior management team and the department. We also have newsletters that go out. We also have our website that staff get directed to. I know probably two or three times a year all the lands people will get together at various workshops and be brought up to speed. We also consult with our regional staff when developing legislation or policies or amending them. There are various ways that we bring staff up to date and seek their input into the various activities that we’re going to be asking them to undertake.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate those comments. I wonder if the Minister would eventually, I assume after six months or something or a year, have experience. I don’t know how fast experience will accrue on administering this new amendment, but I’d be very interested in what sort of, how smoothly it goes and if there are any kerfuffles along the way. I just think it would be something committee would be interested in. I just float that out there for the Minister to consider, comment on, if he wishes.

I want to mention the water and sewer services that are delivered through the regional operations. I note that the costs have slowly been going up there and this is an area where, I understand from the professionals that work in the field, there are some impacts from the changing climate that are being felt. Has the department taken note of that and have they got some lessons learned there? Are they tuning up that program in regard to those sorts of changes?

**MR. AUMOND:** Certainly our experience over the last three or four years in putting in and helping communities put in new infrastructure around water and sewer, there have been lots of good lessons learned from that. We’ve been trying to stay ahead of the curve with respect to the impacts of climate change and planning for the type of infrastructure on water and sewer and where we’ll actually get our water takes place. Certainly that’s something that we’re going to be constantly working on and learning on because the climate’s constantly changing. It’s nothing we can really say, okay, now we’ve done our bit, we’re going to move on. It’s something we’re going to have to keep doing.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Last question, again I’m wondering what the mechanism is for capturing those lessons. Presumably some of them could be transferable to other regions and communities. Is that something that’s passed along through the NWT association, for example? I’m wondering what the mechanisms are for that.

**MR. AUMOND:** Yes, certainly the NWT Water and Wastewater Association would be one forum where we would pass on those lessons and try to get knowledge from our sister territories as well as the northern provinces who operate in the northern part of their areas as well. We do have a northern working group, as well, that’s working on water and wastewater that we can use to share experiences and information and what’s worked and what hasn’t.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Aumond. Page 6-39, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, operations expenditure summary, $73.208 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-40, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, community government grants and contributions, grants, $51.902 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-40, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, community government grants and contributions, contributions, $13.485 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-40, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, total community government grants and contributions, $65.387 million. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** My question was on the previous page in regard to additional costs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Are you seeking unanimous consent to go back to page 6-39? Page 6-40? We’re on page 6-40 right now. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the additional funding of $1.140 million for mobile utility costs, I’m wondering exactly how much that dollar has been allocated. Is it in all communities? It’s a grant program. You mentioned eligible community governments. Who are the eligible community governments? Is it all community governments or only tax-based community governments?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Gareau.

**MS. GAREAU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The additional funding budget is available to non-tax-based communities, specifically the designated First Nations authorities.

**MR. KRUTKO:** So is that the nine communities that have what we call band status or band government status?

**MS. GAREAU:** Yes, that’s correct.

**MR. KRUTKO:** So is that over and above the $4.4 million or is that in addition, a separate cost altogether for the nine communities and the $44.3 million is for the remaining 24 communities?

**MS. GAREAU:** All 33 community governments receive their proportionate share of the $44.3 million, then in addition to that the nine designated First Nations authorities receive the additional funding for mobile equipment and utility costs.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thanks for the clarification. In regard to another issue I had on contributions for water and sewer service funding, for communities like those where they have mixed services with both water delivery and utilidor services, a combination of services, where the costs may be higher for the total operational costs of water and sewer services, is that formula calculated in the way that you can accommodate those communities with mixed services of both water delivery and utilidor systems in place?

**MS. GAREAU:** Yes, the Member is correct. Part of the formula used to determine the funding allocations do take into consideration unique community-specific factors to a certain extent. Other factors looked at include things such as the type of the plant, cost of utilities and so on.

**MR. KRUTKO:** In regard to an illustration, I’ve noticed that there has been an increase of about $300,000 from last year’s mains to the revised mains. Can you illustrate what that $300,000 increase was for?

**MS. GAREAU:** That was an internal reallocation that the department has processed and that is due to three water treatment plants where the type of treatment plant has changed from a class 1 to a class 2 system, for example. That was in Deline, Tuktoyaktuk and Ulukhaktok. The year over year increases reflect the increased funding to those communities because of the change in their water treatment system.

**MR. KRUTKO:** In light of the water and sewer services, with regard to federal regulations and the possibility of having to process grey water, have we taken into consideration the cost of that obligation or requirement that communities will have to take on if that legislation goes forward?

**MS. GAREAU:** We don’t have that information available, but we’ll be happy to get that information back to the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Gareau. Page 6-40, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, community government grants and contributions, grants, $51.902 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-40, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, community government grants and contributions, contributions, $13.485 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-40, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, total community government grants and contributions, $65.387 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-41, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, other grants and contributions, grants, $80,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-41, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, other grants and contributions, contributions, $1.125 million. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see if I could get an explanation here. We have youth corps and youth contribution programs and I’ve been advised earlier that youth corps tends to be a territorial focus and the youth contributions a regional focus. We have almost as much money here in regional operations for youth corps as we do under sport, recreation and youth. Could I get some examples of what the $500,000 for youth corps funding is used for?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Under this line, youth corps, $500,000. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess youth corps funding is split out amongst the regional offices and I guess I’ll just pick someone like, for example, in the Deh Cho we have a budget of about $210,000 that will be run out of that office. That’s anywhere from outdoor leadership to youth conferences to moose hide tanning. In the South Slave we have youth development plans and youth leadership gatherings. If you go to Inuvik we have Ivvavik Field Program. These are broken down and we can provide the Member with a breakdown of all the youth corps funding. Really then we have the territorial programs as well that are run out of headquarters such as the Northern Youth Abroad Program, Foster Family Coalition Camp Connections, Take a Kid Trapping, for example. There’s probably in total close to 20 to 30 different types of projects or programs that get run out of youth corps that are split between the regional office and headquarters but are territorial in nature.

**MS. BISARO:** All those are good things. I don’t need a list of the activities that are funded. I’m just struggling to understand how a regional activity has a territorial focus, but that’s a comment. I don’t need an answer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Next on my list is Mr. Jacobson.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just with regard to what Mr. Aumond was saying to the youth corps with the funding for the Take a Kid Trapping Program, some of the communities, such as Tuktoyaktuk, could the RWED office manage the funding to give to the people like for an elder to get the funding? Because the community corps or the hamlet doesn’t want to take on that funding role with regard to the paper trail that has to follow. Could the RWED officer do that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We contribute to the Take a Kid Trapping Program and we can have a discussion with the RWED Minister on Mr. Jacobson’s concerns. ENR Minister. RWED. Sorry.

---Interjection

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-41, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, other grants and contributions, grants, $80,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-41, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, other grants and contributions, contributions, $1.125 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-41, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, grants and contributions, total other grants and contributions, $1.205 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-41, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, regional operations, total grants and contributions, $66.592 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-42, Municipal and Community Affairs, activity summary, information item, regional operations, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Page 6-44, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to the implantation and the two whole thousand dollars you get for implementation of the...(inaudible)...land claim agreements, I’d like to know, is there also a duty to consult in regard to Municipal and Community Affairs. I know you’re presently in the process of reviewing the squatters policy and whatnot and I know this issue has come to the attention of the Minister by way of our Gwich’in leadership meeting in Inuvik in regard to the squatters at Airport Lake in Inuvik in which the Gwich’in are requesting that you have an obligation to consult, especially where their lands are being affected by activities next to the… I’d like to know exactly what obligation does Municipal and Community Affairs have to consult within the land claim agreements, especially when you talk about municipal lands and municipal activities that affect lands that basically an acquire to a land claim agreement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to the land lease use and policy, we have invited them to be a part of the process. We do plan on consulting with them and also with the area in question. I think the lake borders the Gwich’in claim, so there’s going to be a committee of Gwich’in, Municipal and Community Affairs and the Town as to how to best manage the development along the lake. We are consulting with the Gwich’in. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** In regards to the agreements, like I mentioned, the duty to consult, again, there are activities that MACA does in which they have an obligation to consult. Again, there are lands in the community which are called municipal lands which were selected under the land claim agreements. There are lands in the Sahtu. There are lands in the Gwich’in. I’d just like to know how do you deal with those lands which are negotiated under the land claim agreements within municipal boundaries.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Chair, we will consult with all affected Aboriginal groups where required to do so. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I noted that your last year mains you requested $2,000 and you ended up spending $12,000. I’d like to know what was the additional $10,000 for.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Aumond.

**MR. AUMOND:** Really this money, we get $2,000 a year, and if we don’t spend it the money carries over, which is why you will see in the 2010-11 main estimates it’s $2,000 but the revised mains are $12,000. If we don’t spend that money, basically it’s just for paying of gravel royalties, and if the gravel royalties aren’t requested, then we carry that money over from one year to the next. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, for clarification, royalties? What royalties did you have to pay for the remaining $12,000?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko, Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It’s just money that we pay to the Gwich’in if we take any gravel or sand from their claim area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. We’re on page 6-44, Municipal and Community Affairs. It’s an information item. Work performed on behalf of others.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** We’re on 6-45, Municipal and Community Affairs, information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** That concludes the detail. We’ll go back to the summary page on 6-7. We’re on 6-7, Municipal and Community Affairs, department summary, operations expenditure summary, $93.335 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Is committee agreed that we’ve concluded consideration of Municipal and Community Affairs?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Congratulations, committee. That’s two departments in one day. Mr. Minister, if I can get you to thank your witnesses for me. Sergeant-at-Arms, if we can please get you to escort them out. Thank you both for coming and answering questions.

Committee, Mrs. Groenewegen, what is the wish of committee?

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

**Chairman (Mr. Abernethy):** I will now rise and report progress. Thank you very much, committee.

# Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 133-16(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2011-2012, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

# Orders of the Day

**ACTING CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Langlois):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers’ Statements
3. Members’ Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions

* Motion 36-16(5), Joe Greenland Centre

1. First Reading of Bills
2. Second Reading of Bills
3. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

* Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project
* Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members’ Compensation and Benefits
* Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits - What We Heard
* Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy
* Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments’ Interim Response to “Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future”
* Tabled Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts over $5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010
* Tabled Document 133-16(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2011-2012
* Tabled Document 135-16(5), GNWT Response to CR 3-16(5): Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act
* Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act
* Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act
* Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act
* Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
* Bill 18, An Act to Repeal the Settlements Act
* Bill 19, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act
* Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act
* Minister’s Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights
* Minister’s Statement 88-16(5), Sessional Statement

1. Report of Committee of the Whole
2. Third Reading of Bills
3. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 8:03 p.m.