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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Members Present

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Dolynny, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Mr. Nadli, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER'S RULING

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Colleagues, I will now provide my ruling on the point of privilege raised by Ms. Bisaro on October 21, 2013, with respect to comments made by Mr. Menicoche on Friday, October 18th, on the capital plan. The Speaker's role when a point of privilege has been raised is to determine whether the matter was raised at the earliest opportunity, and whether on the face of it a breach of privilege has occurred.

I do find that the point was raised at the earliest opportunity.

A breach of privilege occurs when individual Members are obstructed in the performance of their duties. It is a very serious matter. In this case, while Ms. Bisaro may have been offended by Mr. Menicoche's comments, she was not obstructed in the performance of her duties. I, therefore, find that there has been no breach of privilege on the face of it.

The point of privilege is to address very serious matters like harassment and intimidation that could prevent a Member from doing his or her job. I would discourage Members from using point of privilege to tell the House that they have been offended by others' comments.

If this were to become a common practice, I suspect we could be dealing with points of privilege every day. There are other times to challenge each other's positions, like Members' statements, Committee of the Whole, and replies to the opening address.

At the same time, I have heard some comments over the last few sitting days that could be taken as offensive. We work as a consensus system. You have some difficult issues before you, but I am sure you can find a way to make your points in a respectful way.

As I've said a couple of times already in this sitting, remember why we're all here, to work for the

betterment of the people of the Northwest Territories. Let's make the best use of our time here and get to work. I remind all Members why we are here. Mr. Miltenberger.

POINT OF ORDER

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to rise on a point of order under clause 23(k) with regard to the use of insulting and abusive language and (I) speaking disrespectfully of Her Majesty, any member of the Royal Family, his Excellency the Governor General, the Commissioner, the Assembly or any Member.

I rise on that point, Mr. Speaker, because I listened with great interest and intensity to the exchange between Mr. Hawkins and Minister Beaulieu yesterday. I listened carefully to the volume, tone and content of the exchange. I am of the opinion that when you look at those three items with the type of discourse and exchange that happened, the comments by Mr. Hawkins are contrary to our rules of order, hence my point.

I wanted to look at Hansard, which I did, and I'm rising on my first opportunity to speak. I want to refer to page 27 of unedited Hansard from yesterday during one of the exchanges in a question to Mr. Beaulieu. Keep in mind the volume, tone and content. Mr. Hawkins said, "Who is in charge of this department and if he isn't, come on over here. We'll welcome you back in great arms because we'll put someone over there that can do the job because this Minister doesn't." Same page, second question: "Again, I ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, other than doing nothing, put something on the table that he's truly done to improve the lives of Northerners, or get out of Cabinet because you don't belong there." It was clearly a very aggressive and insulting tone of voice, in my mind.

Then when you go to page 28, Mr. Speaker, the Minister, near the end of this last question, was attempting to respond and in Hansard it says "Interjection." That interjection was the Member for Yellowknife Centre interrupting the Member, Mr. Speaker. Immediately following that interjection, you, yourself, cautioned Mr. Hawkins, "Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins. Member for Yellowknife..." Right after that, there's another interjection, which

was Mr. Hawkins once again speaking off mic but interrupting you, yourself, Mr. Speaker.

We appreciate frank and earnest debate, the give and take, the repartee and the parry and thrust of discourse, but there are limits in this Chamber. We pride ourselves on the decorum of this House, the propriety of the way we do business. We hold ourselves above the other Legislatures.

The point of order has been contravened; our rules have been contravened. I think this was beyond what is acceptable in this Legislature; hence, my point of order. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I'm going to allow some debate on this point of order. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Minister Miltenberger bringing this forward for some type of public discussion and I certainly welcome it. At the same time, this would be the same Minister telling me in the back hallway right after that exchange that he was thinking about calling a point of order just to calm me down. Now, that's a conversation we had; hence, his point and, hence, his point of order here today.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of volume and tone, I think, is quite exaggerated. I think one is not identifying the passion and concerns about seeing issues ignored, repeatedly brought to the table and I think that's confusing. It's normal in any parliamentary process to have discourse amongst sides. The fact is if decorum is changed and elevated to an ever-so-slight level that is recognizable of whisper, whisper there, whisper back here, people think we aren't doing our jobs and Cabinet, in my experience, thinks we're picking on them.

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I don't disagree with the fact that... It's almost saying you can't raise your concerns, elevate your concerns with your passion. I'm here to do my job and demand results, Mr. Speaker, and sometimes that does cause one to raise the energy in the debate.

Quite frankly, I can't sit here and ignore the lack of results and Cabinet sit over there and expect we don't call them out when they don't do their job. They find that offensive and rude, and I certainly welcome another point of order if they want to keep calling it on those types of things. It's very frustrating on this side of the House. I have every right to say to the Minister, in my view, that if he doesn't do his job, and I look right at him again and say, if you don't want to do your job, you can come over here. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your guidance on that. What I'm trying to say is I have every right to call the Ministers out for not doing their job. The public demands it and I'm sorry if it hurts the feelings of Cabinet, but I stand by the fact that this passion must be brought to the job and sometimes it raises

the tone and elevates the volume of the job. If they all want to stand up in successive order and say they don't like it, I'm sorry; they're going to have to live with it in some capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the point of order. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the opportunity to stand up as somebody who has been in this House for a long time and has heard a lot of exchanges, and has been known to spar and argue and fight with the best of them on the other side of the House, but, Mr. Speaker, I did find Mr. Hawkins' comments, questions to Mr. Beaulieu yesterday to be offensive and it did, in my opinion, reduce the demeanor of our House.

Mr. Hawkins was asking Minister Beaulieu questions you really couldn't answer, like can you do your job. Some of it is even what I would put in the context of asking him for an opinion and the tone was disrespectful and it was demeaning. There was no answer that Mr. Beaulieu could have reasonably provided to those questions. I tried to project myself in that position and if I was being asked those questions, there is no reasonable response when you're under that kind of attack.

Like I said, I've stood up and berated Ministers before. I've told them everything I think about them, but I don't think that it was done in a way that... I like lively debates in this House too. Sometimes it does seem a little dull in here, a little dead, but I think that the tone, the words, the questions that were posed to Mr. Beaulieu yesterday, there was no reasonable response he could have possibly made. Whether Mr. Beaulieu is doing his job or not is entirely a subjective observation and I think there are ways of communicating it without degrading each other. That's all I'll say about it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the point of order. I will take this under advisement and bring it back to the House sometime before the end of session. Thank you.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 85-17(4): REPORT ON A CONVERSATION ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, community safety is a critical priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories. We need to look out for each other and make our neighbourhoods places with a strong sense of well-being. Everyone needs to feel safe and be safe.

Earlier this month Yellowknifers came together to hold a conversation on community safety. My thanks to Ms. Bisaro for the role she played as moderator for the evening. I was also pleased to welcome other MLAs and community leadership to the discussion. The meeting was well-attended by the public and included members from the Coalition Against Family Violence there, continuing their advocacy for victims and efforts to stop violence. Community safety has to be solved by the community and I was pleased to see so many people willing to take on that challenge.

We talked about things everyone can do to make this a safe community. Victims showed great courage; they told us what happened to them, and they encouraged everyone to keep using the trail and the parks, not abandoning our public spaces. We talked about the need to get offenders the help they need, not just arresting and releasing people. Over and over, residents stressed that sexual violence is a crime of power and control, not of chronic addiction or homelessness. We also talked about the crimes that are the biggest threat to women throughout our territory: family violence and other assaults within the home at the hands of intimate partners who are well-known to their victims.

We are already taking action on what we heard at that community meeting. I have directed the department to work with the City of Yellowknife and the RCMP to explore approaches to improve communications and coordination between the RCMP and the municipal enforcement division. We are also looking at options for supporting community-based actions, like the Citizens on Patrol program. Working groups from the organizations involved in the community meeting are being established to act on the issues and ideas we heard, and we have committed to holding another public meeting in the new year.

Over the past two years we have been holding other community safety meetings throughout the Northwest Territories. These meetings have brought together residents, elected municipal officials, Aboriginal government leaders, RCMP and GNWT officials to discuss community concerns and issues and how we can all work together to solve them.

Community participation in these meetings was also critical. We all need to find ways, as organizations and individuals, to work together to make our communities places where people feel safe, look out for each other, and know where to go for help when they need it. At the end of the day, it isn't governments that make a community, it's the people who live in it.

Our Community Safety Strategy is being piloted in Tulita, the Hay River Reserve and Inuvik. Through this strategy, we support communities as they

identify their priorities and the resources they have to tackle issues. We must take advantage of the wisdom of the communities if we're going to successfully address community safety. The results of the pilot project will be of real benefit to Yellowknifers as we expand the program throughout our territory, addressing root causes of crime and drawing on the strengths of our own people.

Mr. Speaker, our communities are ready for this type of work to be done. There is a growing demand from our citizens that we address community safety. But it is a complex problem with many causes and we have to deal with them at the root. Dealing with the symptoms is not enough. That is why the GNWT has launched a number of strategies to deal with the social and economic challenges that often limit people's potential.

These include initiatives such as the Early Childhood Development Strategy, to ensure our children start off on the right foot. We are addressing the critical piece of economic well-being and social health through the Anti-Poverty Strategy, Economic Opportunities Strategy and Mineral Development Strategy. The Mental Health and Wellness Strategy plays a key role in eliminating barriers. The work we are doing on educational reform will give everyone in our territory more opportunities for lifelong learning so they can take advantage of every second, third, or fourth chance.

We are taking a strategic and effective approach to supporting our people and working with partners and stakeholders just as we are asking communities to do. As Minister responsible for the Anti-Poverty Strategy, which several Members here participate in, I can say the concept is working. Through this multi-level approach, we will make a difference.

We are listening and we will work as a government providing support and playing our part. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 86-17(4): TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, holding both the transportation and economic development portfolios, I very much appreciate the strong contribution that transportation makes to a strong and prosperous Northwest Territories. Transportation has always been at the forefront of enabling Northerners to grow and develop our economy. Never has the role that transportation plays been more important to guaranteeing our future growth and prosperity than it is today.

Transportation infrastructure is a fundamental requirement and an enabler of economic

development in the Northwest Territories. It allows an economy to begin, grow and prosper through increased access to essential goods and services and to natural resources. Linking communities within a region provides jobs, fosters social development and trade, and allows for social interaction. Infrastructure improvements such as the construction of new roads and rehabilitation efforts across the system stimulate job creation and make our economy more competitive in the long term. It also reduces the costs of freight and the cost of living in our communities. Available and reliable modes of transportation attract private investment within an economy, and create the potential for value-added growth. These sentiments were echoed throughout the consultation processes undertaken toward the development of the Economic Opportunities Strategy and Mineral Development Strategy being led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that the Department of Transportation is building upon this strategy work and embarking on a process to develop a multi-modal transportation strategy for the territory. This strategy, which was included in our 2013-14 Business Plan to be completed in 2014, will guide our path forward toward a transportation system that will enable the Northwest Territories to realize its full potential. Achieving our government's vision of a strong and prosperous territory requires that adequate supporting infrastructure, such as the transportation system, is in place to effectively link communities to opportunities for social growth and economic prosperity.

The process to develop this strategy will be officially kicked off at the Northern Transportation Conference, being organized by the Van Horne Institute, which will occur here in Yellowknife, October 29th and 30th. The conference theme, Developing a Northern Transportation Strategy, sets the tone for discussions and engagement with stakeholders, industry, transportation partners and other levels of government on the development of the Transportation Strategy.

As we move forward to further development of our transportation system, continued partnerships will be critical, partnerships with the federal government, such as the anticipated New Building Canada Plan funding agreement, as well as partnerships with industry.

Mr. Speaker, much background work has been underway. In June, Corridors for Canada III – Building for Prosperity, the Department of Transportation's strategic infrastructure funding proposal was tabled and submitted for the federal government's consideration under the new Building Canada Plan. The proposal includes a \$600 million investment over 10 years to improve our winter

roads, highways, bridges, marine and airport infrastructure. Corridors for Canada III is an action plan that addresses transportation infrastructure needs across all regions of the Northwest Territories. These investment priorities will be incorporated into the strategy.

The department is also working to finalize a Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Road Safety Plan, as well as studies assessing options for improved road access into the Tlicho region. A financing study for improved access into the Slave Geologic Province, a marine system review and an environmental strategy, titled Green Light, have also been completed. Airport development plans as well as a runway issues and lengths study are currently being updated. The Transportation Strategy will build upon and incorporate the results of this research work that has been underway. It will also be developed with input and engagement including all MLAs, Aboriginal and community governments, transportation and industry stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation's multi-modal Transportation Strategy will guide the development of our transportation system and help shape our plans, priorities and policies for the coming years. I encourage Members, other levels of government, industry stakeholders and the public to get engaged and support the development of this important strategy as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Before we head into Members' statements, I'd like to welcome again back in the House today a man who has held almost every position in this government, Mr. Anthony W. J. Whitford.

---Applause

It's always good to see you, Tony. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEW ARENA FOR FORT MCPHERSON

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to speak about the marina for Fort McPherson. The community has set their priority in their community and that is to build a new arena. The current arena they have now was built in 1987. The location was built on the grounds of the old Fleming Hall that's affecting the foundation. That's their plan over the next couple of years. They figure the rough estimate is roughly \$5 million. That's one thing that the community has said.

Community arenas are vital for small communities in the North. Our youth, elders and leaders make use of these buildings on a daily basis. A good example of that, I know it's our neighbouring

territory, but NHL hockey player Mr. Jordin Tootoo is a growing success and I think that if we provide these facilities, we'd most likely see more NHL players in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DECENTRALIZATION OF POSITIONS
TO COMMUNITIES POST-DEVOLUTION

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to touch base on devolution. Phase one and phase two of devolution is well underway for implementation in 2014. However, there is still no confidence in the regions and communities that we are all working towards decentralization. The plan is status quo and no movement to the communities. It's no wonder that we have to spend more in Yellowknife, because we support and put more people here. But as a representative government of the people, we must take this opportunity to ensure all of our regions benefit.

We, as Regular MLAs and regional MLAs, must ensure growth in our communities across our great Northwest Territories. For example, how would 12 person years affect Fort Simpson? This would add 12 new homeowners and all the salaries that would make this community grow. We all hear stories about the marvelous bouncing buck and here's a case of 12 full-time positions, as well as with a secretary, that can add to the growth of this one community. If we plan it properly, we can do this across all of the regions in the Northwest Territories and help all of our communities grow.

As I indicated, phase one and phase two of devolution are well underway. Once again, we aren't going to be able to transfer anybody now because of the lack of infrastructure, of homes and of office space in the community. However, I want to let this government know, and Mr. Premier, that the phase three plan must include supporting communities and supporting further decentralization.

I will be asking the Premier questions at the appropriate time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONVERSION TO HOME HEATING FUEL
IN NORMAN WELLS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The well is definitely running dry in Norman Wells. As a matter of fact, by next year, October 31, 2014, taps will be turned off to heat the residences in Norman Wells.

We need to help the people in Norman Wells keep their homes heated and keep their businesses running. At this critical point of survival, now is the time to switch, time to make it a priority of this government to help the people through these types of situations.

I want to state, clearly, in this critical situation for us in the regions, we need to put the people first. We must not leave anyone out in the cold. Seventeen percent of all residents' homes have been converted in Norman Wells. That's 27 out of 159 homes. It costs about \$10,000 to \$15,000 to revert the homes to heating fuel. Also, there is a solution to the propane conversion. This is about \$1,500, but it costs more to operate than the heating fuel.

We do have a solution within our hands to have alternative energy education workshops on grants and programs under the Biomass Program. Biomass is a solution with wood pellet initiatives that are now popping up. It would greatly help our people in Norman Wells. We need to seek funding to help with the businesses and residences and homeowners in this situation. We need to help to plan to reduce gas usage by 40 percent. Better yet, if we could reduce it to 50 percent.

We must not allow the people nor the town of Norman Wells to fend for themselves. It is not right. I call on this government to launch a full-force strike to help with the conversion in Norman Wells and put our focus on the people, securing them, knowing that this government is here to help them, and to look at funding that we can help the people from freezing this winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the next few years, the people of the Sahtu and the people of the Northwest Territories will have to make a decision: Do we frack our land or not?

Today companies are telling us we can make lots of money fracking the land and selling the oil that comes out, but unlike the past, we can also do our own research now and we can understand that this is dangerous.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change just released its latest report. It repeats what we already knew from the last report in 2007, and the one before that, 2001, only now with greater certainty. Burning fossil fuels causes the planetary climate to become unbalanced, with severe consequences.

One new and startling discovery was that natural gas, or methane, is a much more dangerous greenhouse gas than we thought. We now know that methane is 34 times more unbalancing than

CO2. That number used to be 25. This means that natural gas is not the clean alternative to coal that the gas companies say it is. Consider that oil fracking operations in North Dakota flare a billion dollars' worth of methane each year.

Mary Robinson is familiar with the role of government. She is the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and was the President of Ireland. She recently said, "There is a global limit on a safe level of emissions. That means major fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground." In publications last year, Bill McKibbin made it very clear. The fossil fuels that are left in the ground right now are five times more than what can be allowed to burn and still avoid dangerous changes to our climate. Most of it has to stay in the ground.

We need to step up and say now is not the time to extract this resource. We have the chance to make a responsible choice. Really, who wants to find meaning in their lives by driving around trucks full of toxic chemicals for a living? But there's a truly sustainable alternative. We can choose to develop an economy based on renewable energy like biomass, wind, hydropower and solar. Instead of putting our money into infrastructure for oil companies, let's build healthy communities. We can fix up our homes and buildings so they are warm and energy efficient. We can install wood pellet heating systems and build small hydroelectric power plants.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: Besides environmental sustainability, such an approach would restore earth systems, ensure diversity and self-sufficiency of community economies, support our cultures, and yield distributed benefits across all of our residents. Let's take charge of this parade and make it happen.

I will have questions for the Minister of Environment. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE
PELL RIVER AND THE
PEEL RIVER WATERSHED

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the past number of years, the Gwich'in people of the Inuvik region as well as other Aboriginal groups throughout the Yukon Territory have been fighting to get the Peel River and the Peel River watershed protected. Earlier this week in the news, we saw that the MP for the Northwest Territories tabled a

bill in the House of Commons to try to get that Peel River and Peel River watershed protected.

This ecosystem is an integral component to the survival of the Gwich'in people's way of life, their traditions and their culture. I am of Gwich'in descent and I have seen the effects of a depleting culture within our communities. More important is the critical survival of these wide-ranging wildlife, specifically the Porcupine caribou herd, which is very important because it provides a lot of substance for people living in the Inuvik region. That's just not the Gwich'in people but also people throughout the Yukon Territory.

I do understand that this government and other governments throughout Canada need an economy and need development, but at what cost? The cost of culture? The cost of traditions? The cost of people's way of life? There are some people that do work in industry, but sometimes it's not the industry that we talk about in the House. We talk about hunting. We talk about trapping. We talk about harvesting fish and other wildlife in the territory. Some people also live industry in terms of living off the land and don't get into the types of industry or get into education. We have to respect that. We have to respect the culture and traditions of people who came before us, who lived off the land for centuries.

I applaud the MP for his hard work and working with the Gwich'in people of the Inuvik region to look at trying to get the Peel River and the Peel River watershed back into being protected. I commend all the people who have been working hard in the Protect the Peel campaign. I'm glad I was able to speak to it today in this House, so that it continues to build momentum so that we can continue to keep our culture, traditions, values, and ways of life strong and thriving and prosperous for people in the Inuvik region, in the Yukon and everybody that lives off that ecosystem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SMALL BUSINESS DAY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is Small Business Week across Canada and specifically I want to acknowledge Small Business Day tomorrow, October 25th. Small business in Canada is defined as having from five to 100 employees, but small business owners represent the best of the Canadian spirit. They are entrepreneurs, innovators, job creators and an integral part of our communities, large and small. From coast to coast to coast, Canadian small businesses help drive local economies and keep our communities strong.

Small businesses with less than 50 employees, including businesses with no employees, represent almost 98 percent of the total business establishments in Canada; 98 percent. Across the NWT there are hundreds of hardworking small business owners. In my Frame Lake riding alone, at last count, there are over 50 small businesses.

The GNWT has recognized the need to create a better environment for small and medium-sized business by taking a number of actions, including the launch of a new Invest NWT website. However, a quick scan of this website shows that it leaves much to be desired in terms of serving the needs of small business owners. Website resources are outdated and include information about non-existent groups.

Let's talk about what small businesses really need in terms of support from government. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business – the big voice for small business in Canada – has called on the GNWT for further action in the following areas: First, the NWT's small business tax rate is one of the highest in northern and western Canada. CFIB advocates reducing taxes by lowering the small business income tax from 4 percent to zero. Second, there's been no action on regulatory reform by the territorial government, although it was talked about over a year ago. This government can help small business by cutting red tape through a meaningful and sustained regulatory review effort. Third, the shortage in qualified labourers is becoming worse in the NWT. The GNWT should introduce a training tax credit for small business as a way of recognizing the time and cost that small businesses invest in training their employees.

Tomorrow is Small Business Day for 2013. I encourage all NWT residents to help small business in your community by shopping small tomorrow and whenever you shop in your community, shop small business. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Before we continue on Members' statements, I would like to welcome into the House Mr. Leon Lafferty, a former Member. Welcome back to the House, Mr. Lafferty.

---Applause

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I often hear how disappointed the public is about this bureaucratic style of government. Yet again I'm going to provide, if not illustrate, another example of how Northerners feel continually disappointed by this Cabinet.

The citizens of the territory keep calling for 911, but the MACA Minister won't pick up the call for action. Citizens are struggling to understand why in the

North, why in this modern time the Northwest Territories does not have 911 services for us to access. It is a reality of life. It's beyond a doubt that 911 makes it a lot easier to call for emergency services and time makes the difference between life and death. Report after report will illustrate that. Any delay can cause dangerous causes and effects.

The MACA Minister has been called to answer this question many times: What is stopping you? Yet he calls back and says nothing, and the fact is it comes down to, well, it's not everywhere, we can't install it because we don't have cell phones. We must be at the end of the line of excuses by this government.

Recently, NorthwestTel has put cell phone services in almost three-quarters of our communities across the territory. Basic 911 service has now become such a pervasive issue across North America it's a natural instinct. You ask any young person what's the emergency phone number, an eight-year-old will say 911.

So what is the delay? Northerners want this as a priority. The NWTAC wants this as a priority. Yes, the City of Yellowknife wants this as a priority. It has now reached a public safety priority.

I remind the Minister of MACA that he also includes Yellowknife in his mandate as Municipal and Community Affairs Minister. Often it's seen as we wouldn't want to support a Yellowknife initiative, but this is a territorial initiative which will help the safety of many of our Northerners, one thing that should always, always be on our mind.

If you go to the CRTC website, the website states, "basic 911 is provided in Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon and the Northwest Territories." We should be calling 911 on the fact that they're wrong. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR YOUTH

MR. NADLI: The 2014-15 Infrastructure Budget fails to meet the needs and investments in education of our youth. Youth need access to facilities and programs to help them succeed. They need a safe place to go after school and on weekends. Young adulthood offers a unique opportunity to discover where your interests and talents lay, and develop lasting skills in areas such as traditional activities, sports, arts and trades in a way we can only experience once in our lives.

Recently, I'm very proud that two young people from Fort Providence, Zachary Lesage and Alvin Minoza, took the initiative to come to my constituency office to let me know how much they

would like an area for skateboarding, a BMX track and a play zone for paintball as early as next spring or summer. We need to develop these areas for our youth and teach them the skills they need to get involved in building it for themselves.

Young people have a lot of energy that can be channeled for the good of their communities, schools, friends, families and themselves. Participating in various activities in a supportive atmosphere builds the confidence and social skills we need as people in order to build healthy relationships and achieve individual and collective goals.

Each community in the NWT should have at least one facility dedicated to youth. Everywhere you go you see a real need to have established and operating youth centres in small communities.

Schools and youth centres are so much more than buildings. When we invest in infrastructure for youth, we are contributing to some great programs that offer young Northerners opportunities like never before. When government neglects infrastructure in schools and youth centres, it shortchanges their own investments in quality programs, including youth development projects, sport and recreation programs and strategies, high performance athlete development, Youth Ambassadors, Northern Youth Abroad, youth leadership development, and components of after-school physical activity and the Healthy Choices Framework.

Over the coming year I want to see the Government of the NWT, communities, industry and local businesses work together to enhance facilities and programs in all our communities for the benefit of the youth and the general public. I strongly support a balanced approach to investments in our capital infrastructure. We need to ask ourselves what are we teaching our young people. As we spend heavily in one area, what compromises are we willing to make in another?

Ultimately our future will be determined by the value, leadership and decisions of our youth. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LIFEGUARDS FOR LODUNE

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a sunny day in June 2013 – the first day of summer break for Yellowknife students – our Yellowknife suffered the loss of a young, vibrant little seven-year-old boy, Lodune Shelley. Lodune was in a tragic drowning accident at Long Lake beach within our NWT Fred Henne Park. Through you, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, our

sincere thoughts and prayers go out to the families who are with us today.

In the wake of tragedy there is always the opportunity for growth and positive outcomes. This unfortunate event saw the birth of Lifeguards for Lodune, an initiative started by Tanya Silke and a number of heartfelt volunteers who, in their spirit and in their words, came together to encourage community spirit, empower people, get involved and make a difference.

Get involved they did. The volunteer group quickly joined forces with spirited individuals and the business community for supplies, finances and, in some cases, expertise. In no time they were patrolling the beach at Long Lake, being that extra pair of eyes and ears and having on standby that much needed lifesaving equipment. All were volunteers, many were trained in First Aid and all were putting their faith in the hands of the Good Samaritan Act. Looming over their shadows, liability was, and continues to be, the barrier to their ultimate success.

Sadly, during Lifeguards for Lodune's early phase, they were strongly discouraged by this government to continue, but many in this House and all of Yellowknife were supportive and encouraged them to continue their cause, promising them that we, the elected, would battle for them in this House.

Therefore, I stand here today, with many of my colleagues in support, in saying, Minister Ramsay, bring back our lifeguards.

Now, we know that much awaited Life Saving Society of Alberta report will be tabled later today. I haven't read it yet, but we know from earlier department spokespeople that we shouldn't hold our breath under water. Many are encouraged and thankful to the Life Saving Society for providing 33 personal floatation devices at Long Lake beach this summer, but the majority of citizens are discouraged without the single recommendation we all hoped for.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. DOLYNNY: We spend millions upon millions of dollars in infrastructure such as highways. In fact, one kilometre of new highway construction could fund a lifeguard program at Long Lake for 142 years, or put it another way, 23 feet of new highway could fund our lifeguard program for one year. Ask yourself, can the Minister spare a couple feet of highway each year to help save lives? Let's ask him later today in oral questions. Thank you, Lifeguards for Lodune, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Thoughts and prayers are with the family in the House. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR
PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June of this year I talked about the importance of showing our support for families across the Northwest Territories who have experienced the tragedy of losing a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Last week, October 15th was recognized in many countries, provinces and states around the world as a special day of remembrance for pregnancy loss and infant death. This day of remembrance has been honoured annually by all 50 U.S. states since 1988. In Canada, six provinces have observed October 15th a special Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day, as has the United Kingdom and some Australian states.

Later today I will be asking this Legislative Assembly to please add our voices to those already raised in support of grieving families, by supporting a motion to observe October 15th as an annual day of remembrance for pregnancy and infant loss in the Northwest Territories. As I said before, a pregnancy and infant loss day of remembrance is a small but important gesture for every family who has been touched by this tragedy. It shows our support and our sympathy and reminds us of the research and awareness that still needs to be done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Moses.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 8-17(4):
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 24:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ACT

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Standing Committee on Social Programs is pleased to provide its report on the review of 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, and commends it to the House.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Social Programs commends the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for advancing this bill in response to motions passed in this Assembly.

A year and a half ago, MLAs Dolynny and Yakeleya introduced a motion urging the Minister to develop legislation to help stop bullying in the Northwest Territories, supported by a comprehensive awareness campaign.

The motion was passed unanimously by Regular Members. The message was reinforced this year in

a motion by MLAs Bisaro and Bouchard, who called for our government to support federal and provincial efforts to help control cyber-bullying including changes to the Criminal Code of Canada.

The misuse of new social media has had tragic results across Canada sometimes leading young people to take their own lives. The GNWT decision to amend the Education Act as a first step to curb bullying in the Northwest Territories was based in part on compelling independent research. A survey of 1,600 NWT students showed significantly higher levels of bullying here than most of Canada.

For example, 81 percent of girls in Grade 6 through Grade 8 reported that they had been bullied, compared to 69 percent across Canada; 72 percent of boys the same age reported that they had been bullied, 9 percent higher than the rest of the Canada. These numbers are disturbing. What is worse, behind the numbers are young victims, in some cases of unintentionally hurtful pranks, but in others of real malice and cruelty.

The purpose of the amendments proposed in Bill 12 is to define bullying, including cyber-bullying, and provide, through regulation, for a territorial school code of conduct and safe school plans. District education authorities would be required to develop a discipline policy consistent with the territorial code of conduct.

While bullying is defined and must be addressed in safe schools plans, bullying will not be explicitly prohibited in the Education Act itself. It is the intention of these amendments that measures against bullying will be included in the territorial code of conduct, safe schools plans, and other school rules described in the discipline policy enacted by each education authority.

Similarly, duties and procedures dealing with bullying will be contained in future regulations. In this way, the bill places the determination of responsibilities of students, parents, teachers, principals and education authorities squarely in the Minister's hands.

These decisions were made following the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's review of anti-bullying legislation across Canada. Prior to writing Bill 12, the department also sought feedback from major stakeholders including unions, the RCMP and the public. Approximately 350 responses were received. ECE also consulted with the NWT Teachers' Association on how bullying should be dealt with in NWT schools.

The bill before you today includes three amendments introduced at the committee's public clause-by-clause hearing in Yellowknife on October 24, 2013. These represent changes adopted by the committee after being recommended during previous public hearings. The amendments provide

clarification and more explicit definitions of bullying and cyber-bullying. The committee is grateful to everyone who attended hearings and commented on Bill 12. Your input has been a great help in improving the bill and providing guidance for the government's future actions against bullying.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to pass the report off to my colleague Ms. Bisaro.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to Mr. Moses.

Public Comments – A Discussion

The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted an active and thorough review of this bill. For the first time in the history of the Northwest Territories, the committee held hearings in schools to solicit the views of students. To facilitate discussion and openness, the format was much less formal than a typical public hearing on a bill.

These sessions took place at the Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River, Ecole Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife, Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells, and the East Three Secondary School in Inuvik. An additional session was done with a video e-learning link to a class in Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk. Members thank the many thoughtful students and teachers who took part, as it represents a new milestone in our territory's democratic progress.

The committee's small survey amplifies the findings of the independent research cited earlier. Virtually every student had been bullied or had seen bullying at school. A much smaller but very encouraging number – perhaps half – had reported bullying. This speaks to the timeliness of Bill 12 and the need to take positive action.

Students' comments at the various schools had much in common, but differences were evident including issues related to the size of the community and student body.

In each school, students provided at least one new and useful idea for the committee to consider and sometimes more.

For example, in Hay River a student suggested that schools identify a group of students willing to speak up about bullying incidents on behalf of others. They also suggested bringing in motivational speakers to address bullying issues.

Empowering victims and bystanders to report bullying or even to intervene in some cases was a key theme among students. As one young woman put it at East Three Secondary School in Inuvik, "what I hate the most is that nobody ever does anything about it. They just stand and watch." The territorial code of conduct and safe schools plans should address this issue, ensuring support to

bystanders who come forward. Students must know help is easy to get. The committee encountered some who said they did not even know who to go to for help.

I would like to now pass the reading of the report to my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Cyber-bullying is a "live issue" for students at all the schools visited by the committee, though it appears to be a bigger problem in the larger more urban settings. Students identified several websites that they consider to be problematic because the participants are anonymous: whisper.com ("but everybody talks about it"), Ask.fm and Omegle.com (including Omegle Canada). The latter involves live chats with strangers including video. Awareness of these sites and sites of this type should be part of ECE's communication plan for students, parents and schools.

Students frequently spoke about the need to "call them out on it" – the bully, that is – but admitted it can be hard to do and often is not done. The rise of cyber-bullying contributes to that problem. "There is more cyber-bullying than regular bullying now," reported a student in Inuvik.

Public hearings were also held in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Yellowknife and Hay River, between September 23 and October 7, 2013. The unifying theme of these meetings is that bullying "is a community and societal problem, not simply a school problem or a family problem." As one concerned observer said in Yellowknife, the goal should be to replace a culture of bullying with "a culture of peace and non-violence."

From this general theme came recommendations to draft separate legislation specifically to address bullying in our society, community, cyberspace, workplaces and public venues. This may be a desirable approach, and Nova Scotia may serve as a national example in this regard, but it is well beyond the scope of Bill 12.

Some frustration was also expressed with the vagueness of Bill 12, due to the absence of information about the contents of the territorial code of conduct, safe schools plans and regulations. It remains unknown exactly what these policies will require of teachers, principals, education authorities and perhaps even parents.

Similarly, it came up in several public hearings that there is no reference in the bill to adults in schools who may be victims of bullying. This is a significant oversight which should be addressed in the territorial code of conduct, safe schools plans and regulations.

Many thoughtful and effective practices to reduce bullying are already in place at NWT schools. However, the committee also encountered inconsistency among teachers in the way bullying is handled, let alone across an education authority or the territory. While one teacher might stop bullying at the teasing level, another might say, "Handle it yourself." Students often cited cases in which they believed nothing was done after bullying was reported.

At one hearing a young man said that after two years he finally just beat up the bully, but then saw the bully's fear, and felt sorry. In Inuvik, a woman, now well-advanced in her studies for a Bachelor's of Education degree, said she had been bullied so much, "I just wanted to give up and say, 'this is it; I'm done.'" She said some students in Inuvik from Sachs Harbour have done just that, and put their education aside. Bullying is preventing students from getting the education they must have to succeed in today's world.

These incidents speak strongly to the need for action against bullying. This should include support and, if necessary, training for teachers and principals tasked with responding to incidents of bullying.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to turn the report over to my colleague from the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya, for a continuance.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. A consistent and predictable response to bullying is desirable, but that is not the same thing as hard and fast, inflexible actions and discipline. In each community, the committee heard the desire to tune responses to the local environment and the case at hand. In short, education authorities, principals, teachers and students need a compatible set of integrated tools. Taken together, these tools should be delivered in the territorial code of conduct, safe schools policy guidelines and regulations attached to the Education Act.

Another consistent theme is the view that suspension from school is not an effective form of discipline. It is not considered effective in any community, by adults or students who spoke to the committee. Suspension is seen by many as a "holiday" for the bully that results in him or her falling behind in school, a practice that actually encourages absenteeism. Community service was suggested as an alternative form of discipline by students in Norman Wells, Yellowknife and Inuvik. We heard many times from teachers how disruptive it is when a suspended student returns to the classroom.

In sharp contrast to suspension, there is general support for restorative processes to meet the needs of victims and perpetrators of bullying. This, coupled with a progressive, "tiered" set of responses linked to the severity of the incident and its circumstances, was recommended in every community visited by the standing committee. A student in Tuktoyaktuk recommended "a ladder of consequences." An experienced teacher in Inuvik stressed that "bullies need consequences, and counselling support."

Counselling is universally seen as essential to both the prevention of, and as a response to, bullying. As one young woman put it in Yellowknife, but speaking of her experience in Ontario, "I honestly think that [counselling] saved me for those two years." The committee was told repeatedly that resources for counselling are insufficient now and will be further taxed by new anti-bullying measures. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment must be prepared to address the critical need for counsellors in every NWT school.

Opinion was divided on whether there should be mandatory counselling for perpetrators of bullying. But many students and some teachers believe it is worth the attempt, and could help bullies come to understand they are hurting people and change their ways. The committee is convinced that mandatory counselling should be an option available to schools.

Some teachers and parents advised focussing preventive efforts and education about bullying in the early grades, involving parents from the beginning of their children's school years. This makes eminently good sense. As one student sagely advised, "teach respect" from the start.

Now I turn the report over to my colleague Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dolyunny.

Recommended Actions

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Social Programs recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment:

- 1) review and build upon existing curricula and practices related to bullying in schools across the NWT;
- 2) emphasize restorative processes in dealing with bullying, dealing with root causes to the greatest extent possible;
- 3) provide counselling support for both victims and perpetrators of bullying;
- 4) use a tiered approach to discipline, with suspensions as a last resort;

- 5) provide schools the option of using in-school suspensions to deal with bullying behaviour, and provide adequate resources to schools choosing this course;
- 6) provide schools the option of adopting mandatory counselling for bullies, and provide adequate resources to schools choosing this course;
- 7) ensure that both large and small schools are adequately resourced to provide counselling related to bullying and other matters;
- 8) the territorial code of conduct, safe schools guidelines and regulations should be provided to the Standing Committee on Social Programs and other stakeholders in education for review and feedback in advance of their enactment;
- 9) the territorial code of conduct, safe schools guidelines and school practices should empower bystanders to report bullying, and ensure protective measures are taken afterwards;
- 10) research best practices and ensure that responses to bullying are appropriate in cases involving students with special needs;
- 11) ensure accountability of parents in preventing bullying and disciplining of bullies;
- 12) design and implement a territorial awareness campaign, as directed in Motion 5-17(2). This should be a made-in-the-North campaign with strong northern content;
- 13) consider gender-specific approaches to bullying prevention and awareness;
- 14) to the extent practical, ECE should stay abreast of website developments that pose risks to students, and provide an updated list to education authorities of those that should be blocked on school communication systems;
- 15) the Department of Health and Social Services should add a link to the Kids Help Phone website to its My Voice My Choice website; and
- 16) immediately begin work on broader anti-bullying legislation that addresses bullying in general society and cyberspace, beyond the school environment.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to turn it over to our chair of the standing committee, Mr. Moses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Good job.

Conclusion

It is the considered opinion of the Standing Committee on Social Programs that the bill is a reasonable first step in the NWT's efforts to prevent bullying. However, it cannot be the last step. In fact,

committee members expected more and so do residents of our territory. Further work must address the root causes of bullying.

It is significant that Bill 12 does not amend the Education Act to prohibit bullying outright. This surprised some students. In Inuvik, for example, one said, "It should be law. It's wrong." It is hard to argue with such straightforward logic. This should be considered in any subsequent legislation related to bullying.

At this time, the Standing Committee on Social Programs advises that it supports Bill 12 as presented to Committee of the Whole.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 8-17(4) AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CARRIED

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Report of the Standing Committee on Social Programs on the Review of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act. Therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Range Lake, that Committee Report 8-17(4) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Beaulieu.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize Aurora College students in the Social Work Program in the gallery. First their instructor, Vanessa Rankin. The names of the students: Cheryl Cleary, Alice Mawdsley, Jolene Donovan, Lidya McLeod, Stephanie Rabesca, Vanessa Temple, Fiona Wray, Denise Mackay, Jessica Landry, Tanya Snowshoe and Lucy Kay.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce through you, with your permission, Lodune Shelley's family. I have Lodune's mom, Dehga, here with us today and we've got Lodune's grandparents, Patrick and Gabrielle. Thank you. Welcome to the House. Thanks for coming and joining us here today.

It also gives me great pleasure to introduce Lifeguards for Lodune, the volunteers who I spoke about earlier today in my Member's statement. I would like to introduce their founder, Tanya Silke, who is with us today. We have Daryl McDonald. We have Summer Silke, Violca Memedi. We have Kimberly Galbaransingh, David Silke, Jennifer Pitt, and Lindsay Ohrling. I would just like to thank them and tell them, keep up the good work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two Pages from Tsiigehtchic, Danieka Lennie and Jared Blake, my nephew. I would just like to thank them for all their hard work this week. They really enjoyed their experience and I hope to see you back. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to welcome a constituent from Frame Lake who is a Lifeguard for Lodune, and Violca Memedi is here and I would like to specifically welcome all the Lifeguards for Lodune and thank you for your service.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize a Lifeguard for Lodune, Kimberly Galbaransingh. Welcome, Kimberly. I would also, as always, like to recognize Tony Whitford, our illustrious man of many hats. I would also like to recognize Vanessa Rankin and all of the social students who are here today. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank two students from the Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River who have been Pages for this week, Sean Smith and I don't see Michaela Crook here, but she also served us. Thank you guys for a great job.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Menicoche.

---Interjection

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: I imagine we look alike, Mr. Speaker. I just found out I had a family member that was a Page from Hay River. Michaela was part of my family, so I wanted to recognize her and I found out something new this week. I also want to say thank you to Tony for words of wisdom that he told me some years ago that saved my life. I just wanted to say thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize a Lifeguard for Lodune, Mr. David Silke, a constituent of Yellowknife South. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the Scott family to the gallery here today and, as well, I wanted to say thank you to the Lifeguards for Lodune, volunteers headed by Tanya Silke. Tanya is a former constituent of mine in Kam Lake. I'm sorry to have lost her to Yellowknife Centre. I also have another constituent that I want to recognize, too, and that is Lindsay Ohrling. Again, thank you so much for all you do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize one of the Lifeguards for Lodune from the Great Slave riding, Ms. Jennifer Pitt. I would also like to recognize Lodune's mother, Dehga, as well as Lodune's grandparents, Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott and Patrick Scott, all constituents of the Great Slave riding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] I, too, would like to recognize from the school, Aurora College, the students and also the young person, how they formed the lifeguard, I would like to thank them and also thank the grandparents, Gabrielle and Patrick, and also their daughter. I would like to recognize them. She is from Yellowknife but she's living in Yellowknife. I would like to thank them. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize and welcome the social work students here joining us today in today's proceedings. Specifically, Jolene Donovan and Tanya Snowshoe who are residents from Inuvik. I'd also like to recognize and welcome the Scott family and the Lifeguards for Lodune. Good job on the work that you're doing. I really appreciate it. And of course, always, Mr. Anthony Whitford. It's an honour to have you to join us in today's proceedings. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off, I want to pay tribute, of course, and recognize the Scott family, Patrick, Gabrielle and Dehga. I cannot imagine what they're going through, and it's such a horrible thing. Dehga, I'm very sorry about this experience and I don't know if words can certainly ever fill the hole that's in your heart, but you and my

son, little Hudson, asks and wishes him well on the journey he now has taken.

I want to use this occasion, as well, with my other colleagues to recognize Yellowknife Centre constituents. I have Daryl McDonald, Brittany King, Summer Silke and Tanya Silke. Although it's not a Member's statement, I do want to finish by saying I admire the hard work, dedication and passion each and every one of you brought to this cause and it won't be forgotten. You continue the legacy of Lodune by doing your work and we're all grateful for it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I'd like to welcome my constituent who is taking Aurora College down here, Ms. Jolene Donovan. Welcome to the House. I look forward to you, once you're done, moving back home. Thank you.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Mr. Blake.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 368-17(4): NEW ARENA FOR FORT MCPHERSON

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's statement today, I'd like to ask the Minister of MACA a couple of questions. I would like to ask the Minister of MACA if he is willing to assist the community to develop and design a plan for the new arena in Fort McPherson.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're willing to have our staff go in there and assist the community in developing a plan for their future infrastructure. Then, at the end of the day, the decision will be the community's one to make. But we're more than willing to do our part in assisting.

MR. BLAKE: I'd like to ask the Minister if he will commit to work with the community to secure funding and enter into a long-term lease in order for the arena to be constructed when the time comes.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The community has an allocation from this government for their infrastructure and they will determine on their own what they want to use that money for. If it goes towards an arena, again, that would be their decision, and our role in it is to support the community and help them find other sources of funding or secure bank financing if the need arises. But we will work with the community and explain to them what some of their options are.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 369-17(4): DECENTRALIZATION OF POSITIONS TO COMMUNITIES POST-DEVOLUTION

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my Member's statement I spoke about decentralization and the huge opportunity for us to grow the whole of the Northwest Territories. I know that we have lots of work ahead of us with phase one and phase two, and we still have lots of heavy lifting up until April 1st, but my questions are more specifically towards phase three of the devolution plan when we can start focusing on decentralization. Perhaps I can ask Mr. Premier about what's the bird's-eye view of phase three in devolution and decentralization. Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Member for asking this very important question. As we've spoken about decentralization and devolution many times, we talked about the three phases. Phase one is where we decentralize a number of existing programs and services. Phase two is devolution, where we said we were devolved and then evolved, and as part of that we were able to move a number of positions out into the regions, something in the neighbourhood of about 90-some positions.

In the past, we've been talking about decentralization for a long time, as long as this government has been in existence, and we've successfully decentralized quite a number of positions, and we are going to do that again. Decentralization, or phase three, is a priority of this 17th Assembly. We are developing concrete policies and strategies for housing in the communities and office space in the communities, and we have identified the lead department, the lead Minister in the Department of Finance, and we will take a very active approach to decentralizing positions.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'm glad the Premier is speaking about it being a planned and measured approach to devolution. I just want to get more about the planned and measured approach only because once we start establishing infrastructure like housing, more office spaces in the regions and the communities, then the plan is not just about plucking lives out of Yellowknife and sending them to the regions. I guess it's about everybody being told up front that these jobs, these positions will eventually be in the communities. I know that there are lots of big deputy minister committees and everything on planning the move for April 1st, but at the same time, I just want to impress upon the Premier that we cannot lose the fact that we must grow the whole Northwest Territories.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That is exactly the approach that we're taking. We feel that by moving programs and services out into the regions, we'll be

able to better serve the people of the Northwest Territories, and we have a very developed approach in how we do that and also in how we deal with affected employees. Also, we will be introducing... The Minister of Human Resources talked yesterday about our strategy for human resources in the regions, a Regional Recruitment Strategy, so we are approaching it on all fronts.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: As we go through recruitment, I guess part of the strategy – I don't know if it's there – is that new employees must be informed that the potential for decentralization is there. Is that part of the Regional Recruitment Strategy as we move forward and hope to fill all these empty positions? Because I understand not all the Ottawa jobs are basically unfilled.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: For sure, as we go forward with phase three, we will have a very detailed and structured plan so that nobody will be caught by surprise.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Menicoché

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that in the past, there was some devolution work getting out to the communities, and during my last constituency tour, some of the smaller communities would still like to know more about devolution. Once we achieve, I guess, phase one, which is getting to April 1, 2014, making the transfers and doing all the legislation that's there, I'm wondering if the Premier is looking at a second round of devolution to be explained to the communities and regions.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have a Cabinet committee that will be working on decentralization, and at the appropriate time, will be going out and talking to people in the regions, because I know already when meeting with municipal governments and other organizations, they all have ideas on the kinds of programs and services that should be decentralized.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

QUESTION 370-17(4):
WATER SAFETY FOR BEACHES
IN TERRITORIAL PARKS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Drowning is the second leading cause of preventable death for children under 10 years of age in Canada. We can, we must, we need to do what is right, and not what is easy, to prevent further tragedy at our territorial park beaches.

In reference to my Member's statement earlier today, I wanted to ask the Minister responsible for territorial beaches to do the right thing and bring our lifeguards back.

Since many of us have not read the soon-to-be tabled report from the Lifesaving Society of Alberta, could the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment quickly walk us through some of the highlights that he shared earlier today in a press release, so that he can ease the minds of many concerned about water safety at our territorial beach parks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We didn't just react when the tragic occurrence happened at the Fred Henne beach here in Yellowknife earlier this summer. There is a process. We got the Lifesaving Society of Alberta to get involved and provide an audit at both Fred Henne beach and also the beach in Hay River. The report on the beach in Hay River will be coming out later this fall. Certainly, there are a number of recommendations contained in the report that will lead to a much safer beach and waterfront at Fred Henne Territorial Park. That is fundamental to all of this, is we want to ensure that we have, as much as possible, the safest beaches that we can here in the Northwest Territories.

The report by the Lifesaving Society of Alberta looked at a beach and provided recommendations for a beach that was unsupervised. That's not to say that we aren't going to be looking at the feasibility of putting lifeguards at Fred Henne beach next summer. That is something that I will commit to, to taking a look at. We are going to again employ the services of the Lifesaving Society of Alberta to help us with that study on lifeguards.

There is a lot more to it than simply putting lifeguards on the beach at Fred Henne. We have to look at the swimming area. It's going to impact, potentially, the hours of operation, the access to that beach. Before we do that, we have some time here this winter to ensure that we get this right. We also want to have some public consultation take place on how the public feels if we have to look at reduction in the hours of access to that swimming area, the reduced swimming area. These are things that take some time. We are going to ensure, and I give my commitment again today to the House, that we are going to do everything in our power to ensure that that beach is as safe as possible. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Yellowknife residents, I accept the commitment, but we also hope that there is action behind that.

Let's start with an easy question for the Minister today. It has been documented, You Tubed and in the media a number of times now, the issue of the dangerous holes in the swimming area just 30 metres from the shoreline of Long Lake beach. We've heard that, due to shifting sand, they could

be filled, but we have been encouraged that warning buoys in the water could be used.

Could the Minister once and for all tell the people of Yellowknife exactly how he is going to solve the issue of the holes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, one of those ideas could be to reduce the swimming area. The Lifesaving Society, in conducting the audit, I believe there were divers out there who had masks and snorkels and surveyed the ground under the water at the beach. A lot of this they believe is caused by the way the lake moves and whether or not you fill those holes in one day, they may in fact be there a few weeks later.

There are ways we can mark those holes if they are there. We wouldn't want to have a swimming area where there were these holes and opportunities for people to get into an area that was with water that was over their head. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, I think people are feeling a bit more comfortable that this issue will definitely be addressed in the summer of 2014.

If the Minister is not going to support beach lifeguards in the immediate future, it is clear from the current volunteer group, Lifeguards for Lodune, that liability is their main concern and continues to remain as their number one issue.

What is the Minister willing to do to assist this volunteer group? We have bona fide First Aid volunteers, policies, procedures and a soon-to-be board of directors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, we are going to look at lifeguards, putting in proper lifeguard services at Fred Henne Park, and I've made a commitment to do that. If that is the case, I still believe there would be a role and a function for a group such as Lifeguards for Lodune to be involved, perhaps as safe water practice ambassadors or helping out in various capacities. That all remains to be seen, what role and function a group like that could have, but our anticipation is to continue the dialogue with that group and certainly we would like to fit them into the plans going forward in some capacity. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's commitment here. The true test of this Minister will be his willingness to defy the bureaucracy of the ivory tower and rule in a way that many remember him as a Regular Member.

Will this Minister commit to this House officially, and to the volunteers of Lifeguards for Lodune and to the people of Yellowknife, whether he works with the City of Yellowknife or not, to re-establish a Long

Lake beach lifeguard program for the summer of 2014 and thereafter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I have been in politics now for about 16 years and I do pride myself on being able to make the right decisions. In the case of having lifeguards at Fred Henne Park, I've committed to doing my best to ensure that we get all the answers. It's not an issue of funding and it shouldn't be an issue of funding. If it is going to make Fred Henne beach safer, there will be lifeguards at that beach next summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 371-17(4):
INCENTIVES FOR HOME HEATING
SYSTEM CONVERSIONS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of ENR. I would like to talk about the situation in Norman Wells. I was reading through the Biomass Energy Strategy document. It is very impressive. I want to ask the Minister in regards to the programs that are offered in the alternative use of energy and fuel in the Northwest Territories, can the Minister state to the House in regards to the programs that are now offered? Is it somewhere in this document that they can help the residents and the businesspeople in Norman Wells to look at conversion that is needed in this year before October 31, 2014?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of programs that are application-based. The ones delivered by ENR are the Alternative Energy Technologies Program, which is about \$300,000 a year. Unfortunately, that program already has a waiting list. It has been a subscribed Energy Conservation Program, which supports reduced usage of electro heat energies and water. Maximum grant contribution is \$50,000 available. We are operating with a budget of about \$200,000 this year. The Biomass Energy Program has a broad range of support programs to help people to convert to biomass. It is a \$400,000 fund. We, as well, provide funding to Arctic Energy Alliance through their Energy Efficiency Incentive Program that has a range of programs that are available anywhere from \$50 to \$4,500 depending on the issue. We have a Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program, which provides rebates to businesses to support commercial operations, that has a budget of \$200,000. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Minister. It is quite an impressive list, the resource dollars that are allocated to these programs. The Minister did

indicate that there were programs that were over-subscribed or some are on a waiting list and the numbers that are given don't seem to be enough for what I'm going to ask in terms of helping out the residents and businesses of Norman Wells.

Can the Minister then make a request to the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee to top up the funding to help the people in Norman Wells? As I stated, the conversion is quite high in Norman Wells and we are looking for some support from this government to help them out with their energy solutions.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This issue is regularly on the agenda for the Ministerial Energy Climate Change Coordinating Committee and we'll monitor those issues and those requirements. We recognize the unique nature of the challenges faced by the community of Norman Wells and the people who are converting. We will also continue to invest millions of dollars to make sure that our infrastructure, as well, is converted, but I will commit to the Member that that issue will be reviewed at MECC as we gather for our next meeting. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly appreciate the Minister's willingness to have more discussions with your colleagues on this issue. Is there any type of schedule or programming for the Department of ENR, through Arctic Energy Alliance, to look at workshops or meetings in Norman Wells to look at the different types of programs that could be available to help with the residents? Like I said, there are 27 people out of 159 that are making this conversion and this would greatly help the town on the natural gas situation.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In fact, there is a position in Norman Wells that is dedicated to assist people to navigate those very specific program areas the Member mentioned. I will make sure to have a conversation with the deputy minister and the superintendent in Norman Wells. They are already engaged, but we will make sure they are aware of the concern expressed by the Member in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger, Final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm really happy with what the Minister is saying, because of the situation for families in Norman Wells and the businesses. Is there any type of indication from this government or through the Ministers as to the number of people who are willing to look at biomass energy or wood pellet or situations that will help them with their conversion? Is there any type of updated report that says, yes, we can do 10 families now or we have to wait until later on? Is there a status report? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As it pertains to the conversion to biomass, people have made their own determination in many cases, businesses have made their own determination. There is a migration to that alternate heating source. There is, we understand development of a private industry there in terms of supplying pellets. In terms of access to these particular assistance programs for alternative energy changes, those are there. I will follow up with the staff, with the deputy, to make sure the folks in the region are aware of the Member's concerns. All of that is happening as we speak and we will work with the individuals through the various programs we have available. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 372-17(4):

2013 REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will table the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers" from their fifth assessment of the physical science basis for climate change. I'd like to ask the Minister of Environment, would the Minister please confirm that this government accepts the latest report from the IPCC and that this government understands that "continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and that limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions on of greenhouse gas emissions" very soon? Mahsi.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very clearly, this government is aware of the impact of climate change. We're aware of all reports done by the IPCC. There is no debate from us whether those findings are valid or not. We're spending millions and millions of dollars as a government to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and global warming and we will continue to make those substantial investments as we balance a whole list of competing needs. Definitely there's no debate on this side of the House on whether their findings are valid or not. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I'm glad the Minister agrees with competing needs. That's interesting. We are spending, of course, less and less each year on this issue. Could the Minister of Environment confirm that this government understands that greenhouse emissions are created when we burn fossil fuels like oil and gas, and if the oil and gas is left in the ground, they cannot create greenhouse gas emissions? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We have a major economic initiative, alternative energy-based initiative, which is the expansion of the transmission lines between Snare and the Taltson between 500 million to 700 million dollars. I consider that a very, very substantial investment. We are working throughout the North on expanding biomass, wind, solar. We are investing millions in that as well. We are spending millions upgrading our own facilities, converting to biomass. We've changed our guidelines for construction. Wherever you look, we are trying to lower our consumption and improve our energy efficiencies, work on conservation and we are a cold-weather jurisdiction, we are a cold-weather people and country. The fact of the matter is that for some time into the future, we are going to rely on non-renewable resources. At the same time, that does not deter us from working on the transition. Diamond mines are putting in wind, substantial investments in wind to cut their costs.

So we are well aware of the challenges. We deal with them every day and we are going to continue to invest in those alternative energy technologies and minimize our reliance on diesel and other petroleum products and, at the same time, recognizing that we still require them to have airplanes in the air, cars on the road and, in many cases, still to heat our houses. We have to have that balance between those factors and the ones we were just talking about.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that very long diatribe on something, but I assume that he understands when we burn fossil fuels, they release emissions, but if we leave the fossil fuels in the ground, they won't release those emissions.

The Minister reported yesterday that he judged fracking developments in the Sahtu can be done sustainably, including environmentally so.

Could the Minister please provide the government's estimate for the quantity of CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses that will be released as a result of extracting and burning the oil and gas that is stored in the Sahtu shale oil deposit? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Before we go on, I apologize to the Member for almost cutting you short one question, but the preamble and the answers are so long. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we'll work with committee and this House to provide all the necessary numbers we require to make the most informed decisions in terms of the costs and benefits and the risk and rewards for the work in the Sahtu. The numbers and the requests the Member has made

will be factored into that information that is going to be pulled together as we move forward. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look forward to those numbers. Yesterday the Minister of ENR stated in our House that the government and ENR have already decided we can manage the risk from fracking. We know that increasing greenhouse gas emissions is against all the best possible scientific advice we can have. We know the impacts of climate change are already having soaring costs to the people of the NWT and the planet.

If Sahtu oil is proven, how does the Minister propose to manage the risks caused by fracking a very large but unknown amount of fossil fuels so they can be burned and the resulting greenhouse gases deposited in our planet's atmosphere? How will the Minister manage this, from unsustainable to sustainable?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That is the challenge before us, as the Member articulates. But clearly, at this point our focus is on getting our thinking clear on the guidance we need to provide as a government when it comes to best practices of unconventional hydraulic fracturing. Then we have to work, as well, just to see what's going to happen at the exploration stage. If things prove out and we start moving into the fact being a producing field, then clearly the work and those questions the Member has posed will be part of the grist for the mill of environmental assessments, the timing of intensity, pace, all those critical issues, how do we factor in cumulative impact. As we move forward, those are the things we're going to have to put our minds to. We've started doing that already. We're taking over with devolution and we're going to have cumulative impact resources coming over from the federal government and we are going to be working with the regulatory processes and our own officials to plan both for the exploration that's happening, as well, casting our eyes to the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 373-17(4):
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE
PEEL RIVER AND
PEEL RIVER WATERSHED

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have questions today for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources in regard to my opening Member's statement on the Peel River watershed and the Peel River itself. I want to ask the Minister what is the department's position in this cause to protect the Peel. What is the department's position on this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in 1997 there was a transboundary master agreement signed between a number of jurisdictions: the federal government, the territorial government, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon. One of the conditions in that agreement was that there were supposed to be bilaterals negotiated between all of the jurisdictions. We are hard at work and very close to completing our negotiations with Alberta, Saskatchewan and B.C.

The only bilateral that exists is the one between us and the Yukon government, and I've been in recent discussions with the Minister of Yukon about the need to update and modernize that bilateral agreement. That whole agreement is focused on integrated watershed management; in this case, where the Peel is. So we're working with the Yukon government to make sure that we have the proper agreements in place. We've indicated and asked the Minister from the Yukon that we should call a meeting to review this bilateral arrangement. We've suggested that this meeting take place in Fort McPherson. The first choice of the Yukon government would be to modernize the agreement.

So in that regard, we are very concerned and involved in things that are happening in the Peel. We have staff up there that are involved on a day-to-day basis. So we are paying very close attention across the territory to issues with water in all of the basins and sub-basins. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. I guess the Minister pretty well summed up most of the questions that I was going to ask him.

In terms of this meeting, is there a timeline that's been specified on when this meeting will happen, because there's a lot of interested groups, not only the Gwich'in people, but there's a lot of interested groups that are supporting this campaign. Can the Minister please let me know when this meeting might be taking place if there's a timeline for that? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. We agree that there is a lot of work and we acknowledge and recognize there's a lot of interest in terms of what's happening in the Peel on our side of the border, but also what's happening on the western side in the Yukon. So we've put in that request. I indicated, in part of my previous answer, that the response from the Yukon government is yes, they know, and they do want to meet, but they would like to have some preliminary discussions about how do we modernize and update the transboundary agreement. So we're working with them on that. But I will make sure that we keep the

Member and all other Members apprised as we move forward on that issue.

At the same time, we are there on the ground with our staff and we've had our own discussions with the Gwich'in government about their concerns and things we have to do together. We have to recognize that a lot of the activity that's of concern happens in another jurisdiction, which is a really good case in point why we need that bilateral agreement. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. In terms of modernizing the agreement, when can we see a copy of that agreement once it's in draft form, and is the Gwich'in and the other three Aboriginal groups that are affected in the Peel River watershed, will they have some input into this agreement? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. As we've done our work, first with the Water Strategy – Northern Voices, Northern Water – we have, at every step of the way, worked with the Aboriginal governments. We have an Aboriginal Steering Committee with representatives from the Aboriginal governments that have been working with us both in the development of the Water Strategy as well as being involved in the negotiations and providing oversight on that very complex process.

The Alberta agreement, which is nearing completion, there will be about a 90 percent similarity between the key points and elements that are being negotiated in Alberta as there will be in the Yukon agreement. So as we come forward with the Alberta agreement, of course it will be coming back to the Assembly, to the committees, to the public. We'll review it with the Aboriginal governments. That will give you a very clear example or indication of what we're looking at as we renew and renegotiate the agreement with the Yukon government. There will be very specific parts that are germane only to the Peel and to the relationship between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories as it pertains to water.

So that information will hopefully be coming available in the next few months as we conclude our agreements with Alberta. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 374-17(4):

TAX REDUCTIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Finance, who is going to be up on his feet again. Strange how that works out some days; one Minister gets them all.

My statement talked about Small Business Week and I mentioned a number of recommendations from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business to the Government of the Northwest

Territories to try and help small business get ahead and to try and lessen some of the imposition on their bottom line. The first one was that our small business tax rate is one of the highest in northern and western Canada and the recommendation from CFIB is that we should reduce taxes to small business and reduce it from 4 percent to zero. That might be a bit over the top, but I would like to ask the Minister what has this government done or what is this government willing to do to reduce tax rates for small business. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've done a significant amount of work to work with small business. We have all of the services provided through the BDIC where we have a capital there, especially available in communities where banking services aren't necessarily available. We've spent a significant amount of money putting in service officers, the one stop shopping, so we're available to all folks in the communities.

We have, in addition to the regional support and community support provided by ITI and their business arm and the work provided by the BDIC, we have our e-business strategy. We've put a BizPal program in place. We do consultations, and we have been doing consultations on the Economic Development Strategy that the Minister of ITI is working on where we've gone across the North looking for specific feedback, advice on what things need to be done in terms to have a successful Economic Development Strategy. We've, as well, been in contact with the chamber. In fact, we've also asked the Canadian Federation of Independent Business to give us very specific examples of what type of red tape is there in government that we could look at fixing so that we can become more efficient.

Finally, I point out that as we do this analysis of red tape, we should keep it in mind that every place is not the same, and in the Northwest Territories the amount of regulations we have to run our businesses is half, on average, of what is required in other jurisdictions. That alone is I think a significant recognition that while we may have some red tape and obstacles, we are pretty responsible and responsive. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for answering my second question and ignoring the first, I think. I did ask the Minister what this government has done to help to reduce taxes for small business. Red tape is also an issue, but I'd like to ask him again, is there any intention of this government to help small business by reducing taxes?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As a government, we haven't raised income tax, corporate taxes, business taxes for well over a

decade, and we intend to hold the line on that as well. We have been working very hard not to increase the cost to do business. The tax rate in the Northwest Territories is 4 percent, and that's worth about \$4 million a year. The issue, as we've heard in this House as we debate things like capital and the lack of revenue, that if we're going to consider any kind of revenue offsets lost because of tax cuts, we have to, before we do that, anticipate where we're going to get that replacement revenue or what programs we would be prepared to cut in order to obtain that tax cut. We're not in a position nor are we preparing to look at any tax cuts at this point, given the concern about our revenues.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I realize it's a double-edged sword. I totally understand if we cut taxes, we're also going to be cutting our own revenue. I thank the Minister for that response.

With regard to the red tape, it is something which CFIB is on about, not just in the North but I think right across the country, and I appreciate the Minister's explanation of all the things we do provide. But I believe it was over a year ago that this government, I think, through the Premier, made a statement that we were going to do something about cutting red tape. I didn't hear from the Minister that we have made any improvement in our red tape. We've asked CFIB, but when did we ask them, how long have we been waiting for an answer and what have we done in the interim when we said we would do something?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I've been meeting with the CFIB quite regularly and the general response is just that, a general response or chastisement that we've got to do more. We've written to the territorial chamber as well. We're looking for specifics from people outside of government looking in to tell us what are the specific things that we need. We've tried to improve how we dispense licences, fees and applications. We're looking at that list that I already read out to the Member, and we're continuing to work through eFolks and government on ways we can be more efficient as a government, and that includes decentralizing positions so we can get closer to the people on the ground, in the communities and the businesses. But we do need assistance other than a general exhortation about cut red tape. We just need to know so we're on target. Give us some specific things we can go to work on in addition to what we think.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Michael Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It's too bad you can't say that to the Ministers. My last question, Mr. Speaker, has to do with the comment, well, the statement by CFIB about the shortage of qualified labour. Their suggestion is for a training tax credit for small business, and I'd appreciate the Minister's

comment on the feasibility of that for our NWT small businesses.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Our focus has been to put our resources not into those types of tax cuts or credits but to look at putting training programs in place that we can be there to assist communities, individuals and businesses so that they actually have some place to go. So it's just not a credit but more of a structure, a bigger critical mass that allows us to provide a broader range of service across the North.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Michael Miltenberger. The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 375-17(4):

911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I certainly will never make apologies for demanding accountability, and today is no different. I'm sorry; I may hit a nerve with passion, but of course, this Cabinet has got to accept the fact that some people on this side really care about the fact that they do very little over there on some of the results. The results I'm talking about nothing being done is almost 10 years on the file of 911 almost nothing has happened. Northerners keep asking for 911. Yellowknife keeps asking for 911. The NWT Association of Communities wants 911.

What is this Minister willing to show us that he's done to get this file up and running across the territory so the safety of Northerners isn't compromised?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I will remind the Members again this is not a soapbox that you're going to step on to make anybody look bad. You've got a Member that's going to try to work together. Start working together. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 376-17(4):

INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT
YOUTH PROGRAMMING

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had talked about needs for youth, and I am kind of reminded of a discussion that I had with the elders and one elder in particular. He was kind of wondering why land claims and big concepts take so much time. At the end of the discussion he said, well, perhaps you're forgetting about the little issues. My question is to the Minister responsible for Youth, in terms of my statement, in terms of the news for youth.

Can the Minister provide a reply of hope to youth such as Zachary Lesage and Alvin Minoza, who are

asking for help to establish an arena or an area for skateboarding, a BMX track and a play zone for paintball?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The Minister of Youth, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we have a lot of programs that are designed specifically for our youth. Unfortunately, the capital part of it is not a part of the support that we give to our youth. We have a number of programs, and I think the Member pointed them out before, Youth Ambassadors and all the programs we have. If there is a desire by the youth in the community to have a piece of infrastructure, I would advise them to go speak to their local government, who have the authority to distribute the funds in the community.

I have to say that in many of the communities I have visited, they have taken advantage of responsibility of the infrastructure dollars; I was very pleasantly surprised at the amount of money that they put towards youth facilities in their particular community. Again, I would advise the youth to go speak to their community government.

MR. NADLI: I was kind of expecting an answer like that. Recently, the K'atloodeeche First Nation took their own steps to establish an ice rink for their youth on the reserve, but they need help.

How are this Minister and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs that are responsible for youth going to help the reserve establish the rink before at least the winter sets in?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I have been explaining for a number of years now, since I got the MACA portfolio, that since the New Deal, a lot of the responsibility has gone to the communities as far as infrastructure goes. We debated the Municipal and Community Affairs infrastructure budget yesterday, \$28 million. Unfortunately, none of that money is in MACA's coffers. All the money is distributed to communities because the communities have the ability to determine what some of their priorities are. Not only do they have the ability, they also now have the financing to do it. If it's a community rink in any one of the communities, then looking at some of the capital plans, as far as some of the community goes, I've seen a few of them have identified in their capital plans outdoor skating rinks. The opportunity is there for the community to do that. As the Minister responsible for Youth, a lot of our youth dollars, our programming dollars, we try to get our youth out to as many events as possible. A lot of our money is program dollars, it's not infrastructure dollars.

MR. NADLI: I think I had a moment of epiphany here, because what the Minister is telling me is that those responsibilities have been downloaded to

those communities and they have the ultimate say. This is like devolution.

What obligations do the department and the Minister have in terms of meeting the needs of youth that are calling into these simple needs of establishing a BMX track or skating rink? What kind of obligations would the department continue to maintain? Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we've downloaded the responsibility on to the communities. I think communities have embraced the new responsibility they have. In many of my meetings with the communities and meetings with the NWT Association of Communities, they have pointed out the fact that they do like the New Deal, it was called at the time, where a lot of the responsibilities were devolved on to the communities. They weren't downloaded. I just wanted to make that point again.

It's a tough question to answer, because when we're talking about the infrastructure, I've been saying it here for the last five years, that the communities have the authority and the ability to make infrastructure decisions because they have all the money. Again, the money that we have and when we debate the O and M budget, you will notice there is a lot of money in there specifically for youth, the youth programming, and there is all different areas of youth programming that we have. As far as contributing through the youth programs to a BMX track, I don't even know if that's possible. I have to find out. Again, I will point out the fact that the communities have the responsibility, one that they have embraced, to determine what some of their priorities are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: I have a simple question that youth have posed to me. Through myself, and asking the Minister on their behalf, for Zachary and Alvin in Fort Providence, who are asking for a BMX track and also an area to play their paintball, would the Minister and the department help them? Is it a yes or no? They're listening right now.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I said that I will check and see if... I doubt that there is any infrastructure money in our youth programming dollars that we allocate through this Legislative Assembly. If it's one that Members on the other side, when we do the debate during the O and M budget, if it's something that they feel strongly about, then it's their prerogative to raise it.

Again – I keep harping on this and I will continue to keep harping on this – the communities have the responsibility to determine what some of their priorities are. When you see one community respond to the youth of that community and build a youth centre because the youth in the community

have asked for it, then they have taken that responsibility. When you have another community in the High Arctic that listen to the voice of the youth that wanted a youth centre to drop in, they determined that was one of their priorities.

I would encourage the youth in Fort Providence to speak to their local leadership that do have the responsibility for allocating some of these dollars, present their case to them and then the community itself will make that determination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 377-17(4):
DISPOSITION OF THE
HAY RIVER HOSPITAL

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was asking last week about the plans surrounding the new health care facility in Hay River and plans for the existing hospital, I was informed by the Minister of Health and Social Services that, in fact, it is the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services who will be taking the lead on determining the potential useful value of the existing hospital. I would hope that we could do some kind of a technical review of that building sooner than later so that we aren't scrambling at the last minute to decide what's going to happen with that building. We are a couple of years out, I realize that, but I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services, has anything so far transpired within his department that would look at the viability of the continued use in some capacity of the Hay River hospital. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to actually moving ahead with the construction of the new hospital, there was a technical evaluation and investment analysis done on the old hospital which clearly demonstrated that the renovation and upgrading of the old hospital would have been far more costly than building the new hospital. There are a number of issues there: age, condition, and costs associated with renovating that building and bringing it up to a standard acceptable for the GNWT.

Having said that, we did move forward with the construction of the new hospital. When the building is empty and the new hospital opens, that building will likely be declared surplus by the Department of Health and Social Services. Once that is done, then it becomes the responsibility of Public Works and Services, who would go through the normal disposal process on that property. At that time, we

will absolutely be looking at the building to see if there is any way we can repurpose that building without investing a huge amount of money, given, as I have said previously, the age, condition and operating costs of that. We will look in house to see if there are any operations or use in the government. If not, and there's deemed to be no useful purpose for that building, we will look outside. If not, if it proves that the building is in rougher shape than we anticipate by looking at it from the outside, we would move forward with demolition. We will certainly, absolutely, look at other options for that building before we take that step. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would concur that there are different standards of types of buildings within the inventory of the GNWT and that probably hospitals are one of the more costly and more technical types of buildings. They're more costly to build. If we were looking at a repurposing or re-profiling of this building and it were not for a hospital, for something else, does the Minister concur that the standards that might be applied to that evaluation would be considerably decreased? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, there is no question, we've already done the technical analysis of the building and it is completely inappropriate to use that building as a hospital in its current status. It is certainly cheaper to build a new one than to try to bring that building up to the status of a hospital.

At the same time, yes, office buildings are a different standard than a health centre, but we still have an obligation for public infrastructure to make sure that our buildings meet code. We tend to build above the standard building code for Canada. We would have to bring that building up to a certain code, which may be not be the same as the hospital but it would certainly be consistent with other infrastructure that we are putting in, before we can consider using it for certain purposes. It really depends on the purpose.

As I have mentioned to the Member, we are going to look at this building. I will share the information that we have with my committee, the Regular Member committees, and we will certainly have discussion moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, with the new health care facility in Hay River, I believe there are at least eight activities currently being carried on in the H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital which there has been no provision made for in the new health care facility. I could try to list them off, but maintenance, for example, has a large area within the hospital as it currently exists. I do not believe that maintenance has the kind of infrastructure at the new location that they had at the old location.

Has the Minister or would the Minister consider looking at those activities that have not been built into the new health care facility potentially being accommodated within the existing building with some minor renovations? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, this exact issue came up when I was travelling through Hay River earlier this summer. Residents of Hay River asked roughly the same question. At that point, I did go back to the Department of Health and Social Services and the Minister. We talked about the individual programs that are currently offered or may be offered. I was assured at the time that all the functions that exist within the hospital, with the exception of the 10 long-term care beds, were accounted for in some capacity in Hay River, whether it's in the new building or somewhere else in the community I do not recall, but it is my understanding that all the functions are taken care of. In this capital plan we are discussing right now, there are accommodations for those 10 long-term care beds. It is my understanding that everything is covered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Final, short supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I would just like assurance that before this facility would leave the hands and the submission of the GNWT under the Department of Public Works and Services that there would be ample time to entertain proposals for other sorts of things. I have suggested in the past perhaps even like NGOs that deal with certain types of social issues and things like that. I just don't want to see us run out of time and go, oh no, here comes the wrecking ball, let's tear the building down. I still think it has value. I'm a little biased.

Will the Minister assure me and assure the House that there will be ample time to consider all options for that building before the wrecking ball rolls in? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The short answer is yes. The steps required for the disposal of the Hay River hospital include a number of different steps. The Department of Health and Social Services, as I've indicated previously, must first identify that they don't have any use for it. If they have some uses for it, then we will work with them to find a way to make that building meet those needs. If the old hospital is actually deemed surplus to the needs of the Department of Health and Social Services, the disposal of the facility would follow our normal provisions, which I'm sure the Member is familiar with, and that's under our policy 32.05 in the Improved Real Property Policy.

One we get the notice of surplus, Public Works and Services will obviously follow the guidelines, and if the GNWT departments have no further interest in the property – and that's any other department, not

just Health and Social Services – the surplus property will be offered for sale to certain property interests that may be NGOs in the community or others. Our priority on that list is priority one. The Northwest Territories public corporations obviously have an opportunity; that's the NGOs, community governments will have an opportunity, non-profit organizations and, finally, if nobody else is interested, it will go out to the general public. The surplus of the property may be sold for the highest successful bid without priority interest groups, and all surplus GNWT real property requires a real estate appraisal so we can set fair market value. The provision within an estimated value of \$50,000 can be done by us. If it's more than that, it's going to go through an independent provider like Coldwell Banker or some other organizations. But the bottom line is we will work with committee. We will share our information with committee and we will make sure this property is disposed of in the best and most appropriate way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The time for oral question period has expired. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Moses.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 12: AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ACT

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, and wishes to report that Bill 12 is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 139-17(4):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LIQUOR COMMISSION
2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 140-17(4):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents, titled

2012-2013 59th Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Liquor Commission, and 2012-2013 59th Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Liquor Licensing Board and Liquor Enforcement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Bromley.

TABLED DOCUMENT 141-17(4):
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE
CHANGE (IPCC) – CLIMATE CHANGE 2013:
HEADLINE STATEMENTS FROM THE SUMMARY
FOR POLICYMAKERS

TABLED DOCUMENT 142-17(4):
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE
CHANGE (IPCC) – ARTICLE ON METHANE GAS

TABLED DOCUMENT 143-17(4):
TRANSCRIPT OF CBC SPECIAL REPORT,
OCTOBER 24, 2013: QUESTIONS ABOUT
FRACKING IN THE SAHTU

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to table. The first one is entitled Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. It's a brief compilation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent report.

The second one is entitled More Bad News for Fracking: IPCC Warns Methane Traps Much More Heat Than We Thought.

The third one is the CBC interviews of Sahtu residents about the fracking education workshops that was aired this morning, titled Questions About Fracking in the Sahtu, CBC Special Report, Thursday, October 24, 2013, 7:40 a.m. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 15, notices of motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 25-17(4):
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR
PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 28, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Legislative Assembly resolves to formally observe October 15th as a special day of awareness and remembrance for pregnancy and infant loss in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Blake.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 26:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACT

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 28, 2013, I will move that Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Item 17, motions. Mr. Yakeleya.

Motions

MOTION 24-17(4):

EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO OCTOBER 28, 2013,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on October 24, 2013, it shall be adjourned until Monday, October 28, 2013;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to October 28, 2013, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

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: Bill 3, Wildlife Act; Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act; Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act; Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act; Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act; Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act; Bill 18, Apology Act; Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013; Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act; Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act; Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act; Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013; Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015; Tabled Document 134-17(4),

Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014; and Tabled Document 135-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Good afternoon, committee. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee today? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Committee wishes to continue with Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015, with a continuation of the Department of Health and Social Services, then Justice; Industry, Tourism and Investment; Environment and Natural Resources; and Legislative Assembly. If we get through all those, then we will go through a few bills, perhaps.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): We'll commence after a brief break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Welcome back, committee. We'll go to the Minister of Health to see if he has witnesses to bring into the House.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the House. Thank you.

Mr. Beaulieu, if you wouldn't mind introducing your visitors to the House again this evening.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left I have Derek Elkin, ADM, corporate services; and to my right, Perry Heath, director of infrastructure planning, Department of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Mr. Heath, Mr. Elkin, welcome back. Committee we're on 2014-2015 Capital Estimates in the Department of Health and we are still on general comments. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I noticed as we moved to health centre replacements and I'd just like to ask the Minister and his staff while he's here, it's not on this capital plan but a future capital plan and I think there's a health centre replacement in Fort Simpson. I'd just

like to ask him currently how the planning study is going as we move forward in the future year's budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some information here; I'll just pull the information out. I have some of the timelines and I do believe that we're now prepared to go into a planning study. The planning study for the replacement of the Fort Simpson Health and Social Services Centre is in progress. In the planning study for the health centre in Simpson, we'll make recommendations for the facility and program renewal. The department is working with Public Works and the Deh Cho Health and Social Services on the study plan now. The study plan is complex and will take several months to complete. The planning study is scheduled for submission to the planning study peer review committee in 2014.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. Just as we move forward with this project, I'd just like to know at what point will the community be involved, engage the chiefs, maybe presidents, the municipality in looking at the potential plans for the health centre replacement in Fort Simpson.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: For the details of the process, I'd like to have Mr. Heath provide response to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Heath.

MR. HEATH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Department of Health and Social Services will be engaging in those priorities as we get close to finalizing the planning study. We work very closely with the health authority and the engaged parties through that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Heath. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. It's important to engage the community, because I don't want to be in a situation in Fort Simpson, you know, a lesson learned from Hay River. Everything was all approved, everything was going forward and then somebody realized okay, we're short a whole bunch of beds here and that kind of stuff. So it's important to get the community involved and to ensure that we're getting what the community needs.

As well, I'd just like to point out that with increased development, I think Simpson got it back in the '80s when that facility was built, they got an oversized, it was actually a hospital at that time, because it was identified for the future building of the pipeline, it centred in preparation for building of a gas pipeline at that time, not the oil pipeline, but gas pipeline. So we had an operation room and everything. So I'd

just like to know, will the planning study encompass such future growth like that. I just want to be sure that we don't end up with a smaller facility than we currently have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current facility was constructed in 1983 and does not meet the current needs of the community and of the region. This is going to be a level B facility being constructed there and should be roughly double the size of the current building. So essentially what is planned is the long-term care facility in Fort Simpson is still a building that is useable, still very functional and still meets the needs of the long-term care in Fort Simpson and the area that uses it. So that part of the building will remain and the new health centre without the long-term care will be constructed. The plan is it will be constructed across the road. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. Certainly I'm glad for that level of detail and I'd like to be involved, perhaps, in Fort Simpson. Maybe the Minister and staff can advise of when they're going to do planning studies or engage the community. I'd certainly like to be part of it to ensure that we have something the community wants. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. I'll treat that as a comment, I guess, unless the Minister wants to reply. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can provide the Member with a schedule on the planning study and then as we get into the schedule, indicate in the schedule at which point we will do the consultation with the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. General comments. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Welcome to the Minister and staff here. I wanted to ask about, in a general sense, the long-term sense, assisted-living facilities, extended-care facilities across the Northwest Territories, and I believe it was the projections of the Avens Seniors' Society that estimated an equal or greater than tripling of seniors needing care in the next 15 years. I'm wondering: Is that consistent with the Minister's knowledge, and further to that, just to get the questions in here, what is our strategy for addressing the need, whatever the Minister's estimate of it is, and are we on track to achieve that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are various numbers that do come out. They

are all fairly consistent. We have numbers from a national perspective. We have numbers from the territorial perspective from Avens. We ourselves at Health and Social Services are currently doing a long-term care assessment. I don't remember exactly when we're scheduled to finish that. Maybe I'll have Mr. Elkin just give you a time when we're anticipating that work to be completed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Mr. Elkin.

MR. ELKIN: Thank you. Over the last month we've had a consultant engaged to renew our long-term care needs assessment, our whole continuum of care, and we should have the results of that internally within the department within the next few weeks and then we'll consult with stakeholders after that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Elkin. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Okay. Thank you. So that's on the numbers. In terms of what the strategy is to meet those, obviously, we need to be starting yesterday on that, and I see in the budget today we're making some significant progress. I know that there are partners out there like Avens who are critical partners and provide leadership, but certainly not every community has that capacity. I'm just wondering: In terms of where are we at on putting a strategy in place to address that need, given that we know it's going to be some big number, do we have that strategy yet and where are we at in its implementation? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: In my role as the senior administrator responsible for seniors, we do a lot of work at the national level, called Aging in Place. The NWT Health and Social Services has a continuum of care for seniors. That, essentially, is our strategy. We look at the long-term care based on age, and then we determine the percentage of individuals that would require long-term care. Then we develop a plan that tries to prevent seniors from going into long-term care as a first priority, so that we are holding back trying to provide seniors, whether they be in homeownership units, public housing, or in senior citizens homes, which again is another form of public housing, we would try to hold them back from going into long-term care as long as possible. From that plan, we will have a better idea as the numbers roll out, how many people of that certain age group that we are looking at will actually end up in long-term care. I believe that currently at a national level about a little over 20 percent of individuals actually end up needing long-term care, so it's not everyone that needs long-term care. We have to work with that realistic number when we plan future infrastructure for long-term care.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that information. Could I get the Minister to commit to bringing forward a strategy for meeting those needs over the long term – and specifically I'm talking about infrastructure needs – to committee once he's got the numbers in a few weeks and has the opportunity to develop such a plan?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I will commit to providing the information that we get from our study. I can't quite understand the note here, so maybe I'll have Mr. Heath add to what I'm committing to now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Mr. Heath.

MR. HEATH: The infrastructure needs are typically addressed through our capital planning process. The Department of Health and Social Services has been working diligently for quite a long time in preparing their 20-year needs assessment and the long-term care needs will be addressed through the capital planning process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Heath. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: That's great, so I guess I can expect that the Minister will be bringing that forward to committee. When might we expect that strategy for dealing with this long-term care issue, as we know the numbers are increasing rapidly?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Once we have the data and recognizing that, we're bringing some long-term care facilities on-line. At this point there are an additional 10 units in Behchoko, 18 units in Norman Wells, an additional 10 units in Hay River that are currently in the plan. We're looking at, like I said, other ways of preventing individuals from needing those facilities. Once we have the numbers, not waiting for the units to be completed, but once we have the number I can bring it forward. I don't think it would take a long time to do that. I hate to commit people when I don't have the information, but I would say that it would... In a couple months we can probably have all of the details on what our long-term needs for long-term care would be.

MR. BROMLEY: Could we likely add the ongoing work with the Avens Seniors as a possible facility that we could put on the books at some point soon with that?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We've met with the Avens Society. They have a good plan. The plan is something that is intended to address all of the needs in the Northwest Territories as a fairly elaborate facility that is designed to support people that have long-term care needs and also dementia. Yes, we will continue to work with Avens. They're the experts in long-term care and we'll continue to

work with them and we will engage them throughout the process.

MR. BROMLEY: My last comment is fairly specific. We've had, this fiscal year, an increase of about 60 to 70 percent from our main estimates to current estimates in our large capital, and about a 700 percent increase in our information technology, a smaller total amount, but maybe could I just get a brief explanation of what those are about, those increases?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We're moving into the better technology to assist us in health care. We're going to have electronic medical records right across the entire system. We're moving all of the authorities into TSC so we'll have one system that will all be compatible with each other and it will be linked together and working together as a unit, so that's takes some upfront cost.

For the capital, the simple answer is that we are involved in a lot of construction. There is construction of a fairly modern health care centre that's 1,000 square metres larger than the current H.H. Williams Hospital. We have a fairly large long-term care facility in Behchoko. We are currently starting construction in Fort Providence for a new health centre to replace the health centre. Our infrastructure budget has gone up accordingly, of course, as we move up the queue with health projects and it takes some money to get those on the ground, but those essential pieces of infrastructure. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. We are moving on with general comments. I have Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly this department is one of two departments that have the biggest budgets within the GNWT system. At this point there are several projects that have been undertaken. One of them that figures prominently is in Fort Providence, the health centre. I understand that there is a lot of activity in terms of building a foundation and I think that's on track.

The other area of interest is the Judith Fabian Wellness Centre that was recently opened. I would like to at least have the Minister explain just how it is that that model was reached, because as I understand it, there is a labyrinth or multi-faceted jurisdictions in terms of an Indian reserve under the federal system that is within the GNWT. I wanted to see if perhaps that has set precedence for maybe the further advancement of programs and services for the K'atloodèche First Nation and the reserve.

The other point that I wanted to also touch on is just in terms of the small communities in terms of bringing health care services to them and ensuring that they have access to nurses and access to home care. At least in one of the small communities that I represent, they have expressed an interest in

terms of trying to at least bring a level of service to the community. They have been in transition of trying to establish a facility for visiting nurses or practitioners that come into the community to be able to have at least an office of some kind for either treatment or diagnosis.

The other point that I wanted to touch on, of course, is the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre. I know it's a fact that it's closed. I know the other thing that is hinged on that is in terms of development of the on-the-land program. I am certainly interested in terms of what the features of the program are and how it will figure prominently within the health care system in terms of addressing the very fundamental challenges of alcohol and drugs and the problems that we all have in the NWT. Those are just some key points, if I can have the Minister comment on and clarify at least those points. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Some of those questions were program- and operation-based. I will leave it to the Minister to respond accordingly. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wellness centre on the Hay River Reserve is definitely under Deh Cho Health and Social Services. However, the actual medical services to the Hay River Reserve have been provided by Hay River Health and Social Services Authority. We have to sort that out on that building.

I had a discussion with the head nurse out of Fort Providence, as she was asked by Deh Cho Health and Social Services to come to the opening of the wellness centre and to see what files were there that she could take, so that as they begin to man the wellness centre on the Hay River Reserve, they would be up to speed on the files. She discovered that there are no files on the Hay River Reserve. The medical files are all in Hay River. What we had talked about was that the Hay River Reserve would get its medical services from Hay River. That is currently the plan. We have run into some issues with the consultation or the development of the plan on how we're going to provide medical services to Deh Cho communities that were in close proximity to Hay River, including Fort Providence, Kakisa and Hay River Reserve. That specific facility would most likely be housed by individuals out of the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority.

We recognize that, in the short conversation I had with the chief of Fort Simpson and also the MLAs, the communities of Fort Providence and Fort Simpson still consider Yellowknife to be their support when they need some medical. So that is the stuff that we're sorting out. But specific to the wellness centre on the Hay River Reserve, it makes good sense to man that wellness centre out of the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority.

In Kakisa we have rented some space from the band. We are going to bring a nurse most likely out

of Fort Providence into Kakisa and then the appointments will be made there. They are setting up. I think they bought some things; I'm not sure. These gentlemen were involved with that portion of it, but there are certainly things I talked to the chief there and they were pleased that they are able to have a contract to have a sort of clinic in there, a day clinic in Kakisa on some band property.

All of the people in Enterprise get their medical services from Hay River Health and Social Services Authority.

Regarding Nats'ejee K'eh, I don't mind answering questions. We have not developed the on-the-land program as of yet. We have hired an individual that is going to work exclusively on developing an on-the-land program in consultation with communities. I believe that they may have had their first joint meeting in Fort Simpson last week...or earlier this week, pardon me. What we are doing is developing a youth element. That was one of the other recommendations from the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness, that we also develop a youth addictions program. This individual is working with developing an on-the-land program for youth and that's the first piece of the puzzle. We don't have any of the documentation from the development of that program at this point.

MR. NADLI: Mr. Chair, I have one final question. I want to seek clarification in terms of just perhaps a decommissioning of the old health centre. I know there has been an expressed interest from various groups within the community in terms of the fate of the old building that has serviced the community since the 1960s, I believe. I know the department will play a role in determining if there will be a function for the old health centre. Has there been perhaps a process in terms of how the community could continue to be engaged and perhaps help out in the decision on the infrastructure that will remain after the new health centre is built?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We have been in contact with the two Aboriginal organizations in the community, or governments I should say – the local Metis group and the Fort Providence Zhahti Koe Dene Band. So both requests were for them to use the building. One request was to use the building for long-term care and putting four or five individuals in there instead of them moving to Hay River or Fort Simpson long-term care. They would like to keep their elders in the community as long as possible and turn that into a long-term care.

The second request was for the building to become a wellness centre, so they would run all their drug and alcohol programs out of that facility. What we do know at this point is it does have to go through the disposition process with Public Works and we have done an evaluation on that building. The one item that is going to be very costly for individuals that may take over that building could be the roof.

There are major issues with the roof of the old health centre in Fort Providence. That's something we are going to have discussions on with local organizations. If they want to deal with Public Works on a disposition, we will most likely be releasing that building once the new health centre is in operation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Nadli, your time is up. You can ask other questions in detail. Moving on with general comments, I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a comment and a couple of questions. It's been said before by a number of Members, but I have to say it again, since we are now in the Health and Social Services department, and that is the lack of focus on the renewal project for the Stanton Hospital.

I know that there's money in this budget, but it's not going to lead to any significant construction in the near future. I want to reiterate again how important it is that this government find a way to finance this project and that we do it sooner rather than later.

I'm following with interest the back and forth on the long-term care and needs of the territory. I am in full support of the work that Avens is doing. I have been privy to a briefing on their plan. I think it's a great plan and I'm a little surprised that the department is now going out and doing the same work that Avens had done. It seems to be a waste of our resources. The numbers from the Avens report are pretty evident and I think the research is sound, so I'm not sure why we are doing the same research over again.

I didn't hear from the Minister when he expects he would be able to get the research they're doing on the long-term care planning and if he did give a date, then my apologies. Could I know roughly within a month or so when you expect the long-term care planning study will be done? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the long-term care, we aren't planning on discounting the work that Avens had done. Avens had presented the work to us. We've looked at it. I think we're going to do some more studying on the information and do some of our own grafting on aging population. Like I indicated in my response to a previous Member, the numbers that we're getting... The number at a national level and the numbers provided by Avens are fairly consistent. It's just a matter of us checking the numbers to make sure we file our own information on that. I would say that wouldn't be a huge job, aside from the volume of work at Health and Social Services. I would say that within a couple of months we should be able to have that information. I should be more

specific; within two months we should have that information.

As far as Stanton goes, we're moving through the process. The plan is to renew Stanton. The schedule is we will improve and renew Stanton and as we move through the process and at the end of the day, we're building, we are renewing or renovating and the hospital can take us 20 or 30 years. So the hospital can address our needs 30 years into the future. Stanton needs a lot of work and it's very technical work. We're going to keep the hospital open, obviously, during the time we are going to be working on Stanton, so it's not like new construction. We can't be constructing in certain areas, so we have to do it in phases and move people around. This all takes time. Once the renewal has started, once construction has started we're expecting that the construction phase is going to be five or six years.

MS. BISARO: I'm not quite sure where to start here. With the long-term care, in two months' time, once you have done your work, you have looked at the work from Avens and you make sure they jive, so to speak. What is the intention? What is the department going to do with the numbers you get in two months' time? Avens has put out that we need 600-some beds for long-term beds over the next I don't remember how many years. When the department has numbers that say basically the same thing, what is the intention of the department with regard to long-term care facilities? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't want to be pulling numbers out of the air here. I recognize that the project is going to be around \$30 million. That's what I know. How many beds that constitutes, I don't think it's 600 but I know it's a project that they see as something that would take them, again, into the future. The reality is they are trying to build something that will take them to 2035, approximately. So the next step, if we agree this is what we need, this is the cost of what we need, is to put it through the capital planning process so that long-term care facility, Aven Centre, can be put up against all of the other needs that we have across the territory. The process that we are going through here today will be the same process that we will go through when we review Avens.

MS. BISARO: I'm still a bit confused. I appreciate the Minister is talking about the Avens project, but I got the impression the planning study the department is doing is bigger than that. It's looking at the whole territory. If the department is going to support the Avens project and not any other projects within other communities, that's fine by me because I know how badly Avens needs to expand, not just for Yellowknife but for other communities as well.

I want to return to the Stanton issue and I thank the Minister for the information, but I know the plans for

this project. My concern is the financing for the project and the Minister didn't touch on that at all. If we look at the numbers that we have been presented with, the number that is in this budget is not going to take us very far at all and even over the next three or four years the numbers that are projected are minimal.

So my question to the Minister was that I am exhorting you to get the financing, construction financing in place, and I appreciate that construction is going to take five or six years, but we may not start for 10 years because we don't get the financing and that's my concern. We need construction money not in 10 years' time but in two or three years' time. So I'd like to just leave that.

I do have a question with regard to the numbers that are on page 6-2. The large capital projects in this fiscal year, for the fiscal year 2013-14, the main estimates were for about \$34.7 million. The revised estimates are for \$58.5 million. So they've gone up some \$24 million or so. I know the Minister talked about a number of projects that are ongoing and we've got large capital projects happening, we're building health centres and so on, but what happens between the main estimates for this fiscal year and the revised estimates? What \$25 million did we put into this capital budget? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Perhaps we have new detail. I'll have one of the staff, Mr. Elkin, respond to the change.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu, Minister Elkin.

MR. ELKIN: Thank you. The increase between the main estimates and the revised 2013-14 represents the capital carry-over for the projects that were in progress. It's the timing of the payment to construction that happens every year. So the budget we had in '12-13, it was unexpended and got carried over to '13-14.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Elkin. Ms. Bisaro, last opportunity. Go ahead.

MS. BISARO: That's great. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. General comments. Is committee prepared to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Detail it is. Committee, we're going to defer 6-2. I'd like to turn your attention to 6-4, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$58.426 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Page 6-7, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community programs, infrastructure

investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$3.462 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. I'd like to have people turn to the department summary that's on page 6-2. Health and Social Services, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$61.888 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't see any item for the Avens facility. I thought we were going to support some kind of planning study for that infrastructure. Could I maybe get an update on where we're at on that? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information and our discussions with Avens have been this year. I think that in response to Ms. Bisaro, we're not going to take Avens and move it up ahead of everyone else. We're planning on taking Avens and looking at Avens within the overall picture as part of the continuum of care for seniors. So this is what we're planning on doing.

Now, the fact that Avens is not in the planning study stage at this point, perhaps I can get Mr. Heath to give the Member a bit of a timeline on when we're expecting that specific item to go into the capital plan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Mr. Heath.

MR. HEATH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Discussions are ongoing with Avens. They wouldn't necessarily get into this year's plan. They would be inserted in through next year's capital planning process and we would see it next year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Heath. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Is that for planning or is that for actual construction of the infrastructure? Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that we'll go to Mr. Heath.

MR. HEATH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The GNWT corporate capital planning process has a planning study phase and we would go through a planning study phase before we would go into construction. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I just want to throw out, too, my concerns on Stanton. I'm not quite as easygoing as Ms. Bisaro. A few years from now to start, you know, this is long overdue. It's another one that's been on the books for me now for seven years and I think we are starting to move forward rather than backwards as we did for a good part of those seven years, but now we've been planning for a number of years. The very modest amount in this year's

budget is pretty insignificant to the cost that we're talking about for the Stanton Territorial.

So I'm expecting to see a substantive proposal for funding brought forward by the Minister for the following fiscal year, because this one I'm very disappointed that there's not considerably more in the plan for this year and that we're again choosing to spend our capital dollars on new projects that certainly don't address the priorities that we have. Thank you.

MR. HEATH: The Stanton planning study is nearing completion. We're on target to have it complete by Christmas, before the holiday break. There is a parallel process, which is our P3 analysis that we're required to do under policy for any project that's over \$50 million and it's probably safe to say Stanton is over \$50 million. That process will inform the procurement process that we use and will position us very well for future years' budgets for the capital planning process. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that additional information. I'm sure Mr. Heath has a target date, but I can assure him that that target date for me, over the last seven years, there's been quite a change in starting dates. Most recently was that we would be hearing the cost estimate for this project laid out in detail in September and here we are almost to November. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'll take that as a comment. Committee, we're on 6-2, Health and Social Services, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$61.888 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Is committee agreed we've given consideration and concluded the Department of Health and Social Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank our witnesses here tonight and if I could get the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber, please. Thank you. Does committee agree we want to continue on with the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. With that, committee, we'll go to the Minister of Justice to see if he has any witnesses he'd like to bring into the House.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I do, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the House, please.

Minister Abernethy, if you can introduce your witnesses to the Chamber.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right is Sylvia Haener. She's the deputy minister of the Department of Justice. On my left is Kim Schofield, the director of finance, same department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Ms. Schofield, Ms. Haener, welcome to the Chamber. Committee, again, we're on Justice and I'll start with general comments. Are we prepared to go into detail? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have one comment, and I just want to say that I'm very glad to see that we are moving forward, finally, on the facility replacement for the Territorial Female Corrections Centre in Fort Smith. It's been something which is probably three years overdue, so I'm very glad to see that we are moving towards construction beginning in this next capital fiscal year. That's it. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. I'll take that as a comment. Committee, are we prepared to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We are going to defer 7-2 and will return to it in a second. Page 7-4, Justice, activity summary, court services, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$460,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 7-7, Justice, activity summary, corrections, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$3.628 million. Does committee agree? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to ask the Minister and I need to get a sense and a much compelling way as to the fencing that we are going to be spending within the Justice here. It's quite a considerable amount of money, as our communities have been looking for daycare centres, daycare homes, and other necessary, essentially needed infrastructure in our communities, and we are continuing to spend money in this area. There may be regulations. There actually may be laws that might put us in a liability situation if we don't do anything; however, I've had a bitter pill to swallow just as we were talking about daycare facilities in our small communities, daycare homes, infrastructure for helping the people who want to help themselves and having that type of discussion in the Sahtu. I

can name many other worthwhile, essential, critical infrastructure that we need, and we're going to put some huge dollars into fencing to, I don't know if it's to keep them in or to keep them from getting out of our correctional facility. Again, I haven't had the discussion with the Minister on this, so I'm looking forward to a brief, concise and compelling argument why this should go forward, and I just need to get my head around this as to the exact number of dollars that we're talking about to do this project here at the North Slave Correctional Centre on the fencing. If I could ask the Minister to persuade me.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The irony is not lost on me that today I'm sitting here defending this fence when six years ago I was sitting almost in exactly the same seat you are throwing this, actually, exact line out of the budget. At that time, six years ago, what I wanted to know, and what committee wanted to know, was what has changed in the facility. The facility was originally designed for territorial inmates two years less a day at a certain security level. At that time we were asking, why does it need a fence when it was originally designed without one. Those are questions I asked before I supported putting this in the budget or bringing it forward, and I wanted to make sure that I had solid answers before I did that.

There are a couple reasons that we need a fence at that facility, which wasn't in the original design of that facility. One of the things is when that facility was designed, there were no residential lots directly adjacent to that building, and I'm happy to show you a map of our site where the fences are going to be, but it also identifies the entire residential subdivision that is going out there, and it is basically going right along the building. To get that lease, the builder had to get a promise to put in an honour fence, which will go along the property line, but it's not a very tall fence compared to what we need in that facility. The fact that that housing unit is there has changed some of the requirements of the building.

The other one and, honestly, more significant, is when that building was constructed, as I indicated, it was mostly designed to be a facility, a correctional facility to house territorial inmates two years less a day. Programs were designed in that way. There was a certain security level on inmates who fall into that category. Since that time the facility has, in a sense, changed the types of inmates that we have in there, given that most, not most, a significant number of inmates that are in there now are actually on remand, and many of them are a significantly higher security risk. As a result of that, we've had conversations with Corrections Canada, who have come in and done an analysis of our facility. They've done an analysis

of our yard, where we do programming, and it was their recommendation, based on the types of inmates and the fact that there is that residential lot beside that, we need to put in a security fence so that we can continue to provide programming to some of the remand inmates as opposed to our territorial two years less a day.

Those are the reasons that we need to put in that facility. In retrospect, I wish we had approved it six years ago because it was a whole lot cheaper at the time.

MR. YAKELEYA: Certainly, if we were a writer, I guess, and more willing, we would have, but you were on our side, so we really couldn't move this here now that you're on the other side there and moving this infrastructure budget for next year. I'd like to, I guess, just make some points here. Maybe the Minister, then, can help me here.

We have facilities that are used for this type of situation in the North here. So is that going to happen to all our facilities when people then start wanting to build around our facilities, that we've got to put up security fences, or next year or another couple years, five years, will there be another fence saying, well, we've got to do this in Fort Smith or Hay River or here for security fences for the reasons that you stated to me in this House here?

I imagine that Corrections Canada made a lot of recommendations. Maybe this one popped out because of the residential lots that will be going next to the jail. Who knew that six years ago? Where is the responsibility to the developer who's developing these residential lots, knowing that they're building next to a territorial inmate corrections facility? Now, where is the responsibility of the residential developer in saying, well, because we're going to build here and for the appeasement of people to get these houses, this is what we're going to do? We'll put the fence up. That may be more of a disincentive for people to say, well, I'm going to pay a little more because I'm going to now have to pay for a share of the costs of the fence. Hey, let's ask the Department of Justice. Let's put their arguments here as to why they can put that fence up for us and they can spend \$2 million and let them do it. Then we don't have to and it cuts our costs down for potential residents in that area, still knowing that they're going to live next to a correctional facility. That, in itself, they have their own reasons for.

For myself, I'm not too sure. I'm not convinced by the Minister. I know what you're saying. I'm not yet convinced of this money here on the fencing. Again, I said fencing. Look at child care, daycare homes in our small communities. Look at health centres. Look at putting in RCMP in Colville Lake, Tsiigehtchic or Wrigley. We know the amount of money for infrastructure, but we always seem to have no money. That's what I've been hearing from

Justice. We want to have the basic essential services such as a health nurse in our community. We need to accommodate them with having RCMP in our communities, which means infrastructure, but we don't seem to put that as a priority at this time, because you're defending a huge amount of money going into the corrections facility here. Any time you have a facility that houses inmates there is always a high risk because the inmates do not respect the law, respect people. They go through a process. I keep having a hard time to harmonize myself with the Minister to say, yes, this is a good thing, we're spending good money. At the same time, we've been asking for RCMP in Colville Lake, Tsiigehtchic and other small communities with a nurse and we don't get it. I don't get it. The Minister has shown me over time, and I thank him, for what it costs to put an RCMP infrastructure facility in the small communities, yet we are going to forego this and put money into fencing off to keep the high-risk offenders from escaping or so they can go into the program. Again, I'm not having a warm feeling over here to that rationale. Again, the Minister made some good points; however, I just don't buy it right now.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, at this point, we don't actually anticipate having to do these types of fences at other facilities in the Northwest Territories because they pretty much already exist. If you go to Hay River and you look at the facility we have there, there is a large fence that is available, but the inmates there are also significantly lower-risk inmates. The one in Fort Smith has one as well. The female facility, we will likely have to put an area with a bit of a fence, a security fence, because we will likely have female inmates in remand in that facility, unless we end up sending them to other institutions. But it comes back to security is the bottom line.

Just going back one step first, when the developer came forward and wanted to develop that property out there, the development permit required them to put in an honour fence. They are responsible for paying for the honour fence. It is their dime, not our dime. That will follow the property line. But it's not a security fence; it's more of an honour fence between the property holders of our facility. So we're really happy that they're doing that.

What we're talking about is a security fence on a facility that has changed its security rating. We house a significant number of higher-risk inmates. The Member will remember that we completed some Aboriginal spiritual healing program area on the site of the North Slave Correctional Facility. That was actually done at the same time that we turned down the fence six years ago. The intention of the programming space was to allow as many offenders as possible to access these facilities and get healing where possible, but without the fence, the high-risk offenders in that facility who were in

remand can't utilize any of those facilities because we can't allow them out of the building into our program area.

If we want our remand offenders, the high-risk remand offenders to utilize these programming spaces, we need the security fence. This is a direction that was also given and confirmed by Corrections Canada as well. Without it, programming is limited for some of our offenders, plus, on top of that, we now have the development beside us which did not exist before, and there was not any belief that that was going to end up in that place, that location, at that time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Committee, we are on 7-7, Justice, activity summary. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I want to continue on with the Minister's interesting topic that we are discussing. It's a huge infrastructure for the facility and talking about the remand inmates that are in there. These are the inmates that are still waiting for court trial, so we don't know if they are guilty or not guilty. They are still going through the court process. For that reason, they are limited to certain programs anyhow, as I understand. I have talked to some guys who are on remand who are in there and they do a lot of sitting. They don't have much programming there, because they don't know if they are going to be convicted or not convicted. So there is limited programming.

I understand what the Minister is saying. I'm hoping that he would do other programming for these people that are sitting there waiting for a court trial, to do some more work so they can better themselves. I get that. I actually do. That's what we have. I certainly get it that the developer and the residents that are building their lots close to the land where the correctional centre is, are putting up an honour fence. I'm not too sure what I know about the honour fence. I don't even know what an honour fence is. I know what an honourable gentleman's agreement is, but what is an honour fence? Is it something that we can build on? Do we have to put a whole new security fence up? I'm looking at what type of collaboration we could have there with the residents.

The Minister stated very clearly that security is the bottom line of this discussion here. I do get it. For everybody's own piece of mind to go to sleep at night that this is what we put in place. I do get it. I guess at this time when I'm asking for key, essential infrastructure in our smaller communities, that when I hear that there are limited funds, we don't have much left, that something like this pops up into the infrastructure, it's a lot of dollars that could go towards other key infrastructures in the Department of Justice in our communities. I was hoping that maybe the Minister would one day say yes, we do have money for an RCMP in our nine or

10 communities that don't have RCMP members stationed in their communities, but we have money for this project here.

I'm not too sure how to speak to this. I'm just very disappointed in this coming forward at this time with other needs in our communities such as an RCMP in Colville Lake, Tsiigehtchic, so then we can get health nurses in those communities.

There are have and have-not communities in the Northwest Territories. Our communities are treated differently and they are not equal. There are different classes of people living in our communities. Good for you if you are living in a community with 2,000 or 3,000 people, but not too good for you if you are living under 200 or under 500, because you're not going to receive some of the essential basic services that this government is responsible for, but yet you can put a fence around a jail here that will keep inmates from escaping, keeping them in there so they can have more programming for them, which I'm all for it, but we need to do first things first.

I'm going to leave it at that. I think the Minister knows my feelings and my disappointment in him not bringing forward RCMP infrastructure money. That should have been done a long time ago. Maybe if we had that, more inmates could go into the centre. This is a priority, the safety of our community and the protection of our people. They are more concentrating on the jail than a community such as Colville Lake by not having an RCMP infrastructure there, or other communities without RCMP. I will leave it at that, Mr. Chair.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Just for clarity, RCMP infrastructure funding is covered under a completely different budget supported by Public Safety Canada. They are the ones who, through the 20-year contract, are responsible for the capital, and obviously we continue to let them know what capital is important, including capital and facilities for RCMP.

Coming back to this one, it would be impossible to build upon the honour fence that the contractor of the housing development is building. That's going to be more of a standard chain-link fence with some barrier in it so we can't see through it. It's about breaking sight lines. Then there needs to be a gap between the honour fence and our actual security fence so we can monitor to make sure that people are not bringing contraband over the honour fence and throwing it into the yard and whatnot. So the budget is not just about a fence. The budget is about cameras and other things to monitor and keep the area secure.

I think the Member actually hit on one of the reasons that this fence is actually important. There are remand inmates who are eligible to take these Aboriginal spiritual healing programs because there is no requirement for admission of guilt to take

these programs, but if you are on remand for a serious crime, right now we can't help you. You can't go outside the building that exists and you can't go use the sweat lodges and some of the other things we have built on the property because the security isn't there. This will allow those inmates, maybe some of those that you visited with, to go out and utilize these Aboriginal spiritual healing programs that don't require admissions of guilt. They are about healing, they are about personal growth, and now those inmates may be able to utilize those facilities. It actually creates more opportunity for these individuals, and the nice thing about it is there is no need for admission of guilt to access some of these programs, but you're still a security risk at a higher level and we can't take you out to those facilities right now. When this fence is done, we will be able to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Yakeleya, anything more to offer on this activity?

MR. YAKELEYA: No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. We are on 7-7, Justice, activity summary, corrections, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$3.628 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. If I can turn your attention to 7-10, Justice, activity summary, services to public, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. If I can get you to return to 7-2, Justice, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$4.088 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Do we agree that consideration of the Department of Justice is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I would like to thank Ms. Haener and Ms. Schofield this evening. Sergeant at-Arms, please escort our witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you, Minister.

Does committee agree that we want to continue with Industry, Tourism and Investment?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): We'll go to the Minister to see if he has any witnesses to bring into the House.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the House, please.

Minister Ramsay, if you would be kind enough to introduce your witness to the House.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today with me I have Kelly Kaylo, assistant deputy minister for Industry, Tourism and Investments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Ms. Kaylo, welcome to the House again. Good to see you.

Committee, we are on section 10 in your department summary in capital estimates, Industry, Tourism and Investment. With that, we'll open up to general comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'm hearing detail. We're going to defer 10-2. We'll go to 10-4, Industry, Tourism and Investment, activity summary, tourism and parks, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$2.075 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We're going to go to 10-8. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, can we go back to 10-4?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): We've been requested to return to 10-4. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Excuse me? Sorry. A committee member has asked to return to 10-4. We require unanimous consent. Are there any nays? Seeing there are no nays, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, committee. Mr. Chair, I want to ask a question on the project listing in tourism and parks regarding the Canol Heritage Park. I would certainly like to thank the Minister and the government for recognizing that this park is going to become a territorial park, hopefully within the years left within this government here. The beginning of this park has seen dollars in developing the park like we develop other parks in the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister about the infrastructure going into the Canol Heritage Trail and the Canol Doi T'oh Territorial Park. Would the Minister look at a working group with our regional counterparts in the communities of Tulita, Norman Wells and this

department, on some of the critical infrastructure needs in the park and on the Canol Heritage Trail? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is and it remains in our best interest to continue to work with the community leadership in the Sahtu to develop Doi T'oh Park. We will continue to do that, and if the leadership in the Sahtu has a way forward or wants to suggest a new working group to enable us to vet ideas and projects as they move forward with the development of that park, we'd be more than happy to sit down with the leadership and a new working group and sort some of these issues out. There have been a number of issues going back on how things have progressed. I think the more that we as a department can continue to dialogue with the people who are in the Sahtu, the leaders there and the people who are interested in seeing the advancement of this park, the better off we will be. I look forward to that and thank the Member for the suggestion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: No more questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. We'll go to 10-4, Industry, Tourism and Investment, activity summary, tourism and parks, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$2.075 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just had a quick question. I'm pleased to see the work going ahead on Prelude Lake Park. It's an area that is looking a little rough, like it's been rode pretty hard. But I'm wondering: There's a big issue on parking, and I know the Minister has heard about this sort of thing. The residents and the region, the visitors, and even the residents of the park itself are not able to use it because there are people that have cabins out on the lake and as often as not they're squatters' cabins that are using the facility, the parking spaces for long-term parking and stuff. Will this work resolve the parking issues that have been raised by constituents with the Minister? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will continue to make investments at the Prelude Lake Park. You'll see a number of items addressed in this capital plan, but this is only the beginning and the Member knows that we need to continue to make investments that are going to

make a difference. Expanding the parking lot, looking at opportunities, we're looking at the replacement of the marina complex here in this plan, as well as some fencing and railing replacement and also some improvement to the beach area at Prelude. Also coming soon, in '15-16 we're looking at a new loop to be constructed, loop D, an addition of 15 campsites and a washroom. So it's an ongoing case. So we have the Prelude Lake Management Plan and we do have to invest in that park.

I know where Mr. Bromley is coming from in his concern for that park. We share the concern and that's why we need to find investment dollars to put into that park. It's very much needed. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that. I know the Minister is aware of the situation. Maybe getting away from infrastructure a little bit, so cack me if you must, Mr. Chair, but what we're trying to do I think here is address the problem as much as possible through some infrastructure improvements. Is that going to do it, or are there other things that are needed that will change the behaviour of the users of the park parking lot?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: As we go forward, I think there are and will be other mechanisms to deal with the situation at Prelude Lake, not specifically to the park, but I know there are a number of other issues due to the use on the lake itself, not exactly in the park. So we would continue to work with MACA to address some of those concerns. We are going to advance the Department of Lands with devolution. So certainly there's going to be opportunity for us to address other issues as they arise and as they impact the use of Prelude Lake Territorial Park. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks again to the Minister. My last question on this, really, is: Are there any implications in terms of fees for users of the park, and if there are, will they be different than what's currently in place? In relation to that, is there any consideration for people who actually live in the park?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'll allow the question even though it's an operational question. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not anticipating any fee increases this year. For Members' knowledge here, I should also mention that we're introducing some regulatory improvements in the parks to allow for greater enforcement of the rules that we have in place there, primarily around the use of alcohol, ATVs, as well as the permitting of vehicle traffic in the park itself, which we think will certainly help the situation at Prelude. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: That was all I had, Mr. Chair. I appreciate those comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Moving on with questions here on this activity, I have Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to ask a question in terms of some clarity on the Dory Point reconstruction of the shelter that was there before. There's been some speculation whether in fact it could be moved to the base of the bridge. Is that the plan or is that just speculation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. For that we'll go to Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could get the detail of that for the Member. We are going to look at the construction of a screened-in picnic shelter area at Dory Point. The exact location of the shelter itself I think we'd be certainly looking towards working with the community to see where exactly they want the shelter and would like to see the shelter constructed. I think that would happen before construction would take place on the picnic shelter. So I can commit to the Member and to the House that we'll go back to the department and ensure that they have talked to the community so that we make sure that we put it in the right place. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Once again, I'll just build upon the Minister's response and I appreciate his reply in terms of Dory Point. But I think the greater interest is in that area where traffic goes onto the bridge and the Dory Point site, plus of course if you're travelling from south to north, the area is ripe for potential tourism activities. Is there perhaps a framework that the department is considering at some point maybe to be the basis of discussion with the community? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I think it's in the department and the government's best interest to continue the dialogue with the community when it comes to placing infrastructure in and around communities. In this case it would be no different. I think if the community is interested in talking, we'll be there to listen, and that's our role and I know the picnic shelter in this case was supposed to be built on the south side of the bridge replacing the structure. But, again, I want to reiterate that we need to know exactly what the wants of the community are and in this case we'll find that out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Committee, we're on 10-4, Industry, Tourism and Investment, activity summary, tourism and parks, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$2.575 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you. Committee, if you could turn your attention to 10-8, Industry, Tourism and Investment, activity summary, economic diversification and business support, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$65,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Committee, turn back to 10-2 for the department summary. Industry, Tourism and Investment, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$2.640 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree we've given consideration and concluded with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank Ms. Kaylo for joining us this evening. If I could get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witness out of the Chamber. Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Does committee agree to continue on?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Okay, we're going to go to Environment and Natural Resources. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Okay, we'll go to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources to see if he has any witnesses he wants to bring into the Chamber.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses into the House please.

Minister Miltenberger, if you could please introduce your witness to the House.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. Ernie Campbell, deputy minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Campbell, welcome back to the House. Good to see you again. Committee, we are on Environment and Natural Resources and we're going to open up the floor to general comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'm hearing detail, committee. Good. We're going to skip 11-2, and I'm going to get committee to go to 11-4. Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, corporate management, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments. Any comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 11-6, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, wildlife, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$335,000. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, just one question. This past August the Minister and I and the deputy minister were up in Deline on Great Bear Lake, and we certainly enjoyed the time there, and also we had the opportunity to be on the river and check the fish and the wildlife and the Great Bear Lake, and went on the Bear River and made sure everything was copasetic there with the people there. However, we were using a wildlife officer's somewhat questionable boat there that seemed unsuitable for that lake. Maybe it was suitable for a river, but that lake there was quite... I'm not too sure if it was a good fit for that type of operation for Great Bear Lake. I want to ask the Minister if there are any plans for the future infrastructure in regard to helping out with the operations of that department's office in the Sahtu.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. For that we'll go to Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The boat that the Member references is actually targeted for replacement for not 2014-15 but for 2015-16. However, I have in the last two days had discussions with the regional superintendent in the Sahtu on the patrol boat that's identified for 2014-15 for Norman Wells, and we are looking to do a switch with those two communities and have the patrol boat for the 2014-15 year that's identified for Norman Wells go to Deline.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: That's good enough for me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, we're on 11-6, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, wildlife, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$335,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We're going to 11-9, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, forest management, infrastructure investment summary,

infrastructure investments, \$1.770 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, 11-13, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, environment, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$130,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. If I can get committee to return to 11-2 for the department summary. Environment and Natural Resources, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$2 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Just on this question here, I may be ruled out of line or order here. I want to ask about the infrastructure on the baseline studies. Has there been any type of monitoring from the department on the areas around the Sahtu that are going to do some oil and gas activity, on the air monitoring quality, the water monitoring? Is there any type of infrastructure that's going in next year to help us with our decision on the oil and gas activity? I'll just leave that in your judgment, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Mr. Yakeleya, that's fair. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working through the Environmental Studies Research Fund, which is funded in part by industry, to look at baseline information for wildlife as well as baseline information as we do groundwater mapping. There is, in fact, a workshop going to be held in Norman Wells in November, and we've applied for money and we see this as an ongoing process that's going to take some time. As well, industry has indicated a great interest in sharing all the information that they have acquired over the year as part of their various environmental assessment review of their projects.

MR. YAKELEYA: I appreciate that, and I appreciate the update from the Minister. I want to inquire into if there is any type of infrastructure going there in terms of the monitoring of the quality of the air in and around the area as well as looking forward for the oil and gas resources.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: In addition to the people and the resources we already have on the ground, we are also, as part of our community based water monitoring strategy that we're rolling out across the North, putting in that capacity and working with communities to have that capacity both in terms of the equipment to do the monitoring as well as the ability to use the equipment that is being put in. We're looking at making sure all those pieces are linked.

MR. YAKELEYA: I appreciate that, again, from the Minister. It sure helps me with questions I have from back home and from my people in regard to the initiatives some of the staff from ENR are going to do up in the Sahtu region, because we're at the critical point of entering into possibly a huge oil and gas development in the future.

My last question will be this to the Minister, and it has to do with the wildlife, and we're looking at the wildlife in the mountains west of Norman Wells and it's close to the oil and gas exploration points of interest. Is the Minister looking at any type of monitoring on the impacts of sheep in the mountains because of the noise activity and possibly some of the air quality, just so that we have all our bases covered? I say this because Doh T'oi in our language means sheep nests. That's where the mothers go to have their young, and we certainly don't want to add disruption to that natural process that these animals have. Doh T'oi is just like the maternity ward at Stanton Hospital, that's where all the mothers go and we want to make it as quiet as possible and there's no disruption and there's no after-effect as to how their young ones are going to be developing with our sheep here. That's an important animal to the Sahtu people and it has special provisions in their land claims on the sheep there. That's on the infrastructure. We'll see how we would... I can ask that question, I guess, and we'll get an answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Just touching on the verge of monitoring and operations, so we'll allow Mr. Campbell to respond to that.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through our forced growth, they are linked to the Environmental Studies Research Fund. We also have \$200,000 that was identified for baseline studies for wildlife in the central Mackenzie, so we will be looking at a number of species there with that monitoring program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: I do appreciate the discretion on my question, and I will keep it to infrastructure. This is my last question here on the infrastructure that the Minister is going to be looking at. I'm asking for the infrastructure requirements to measure... Again, it has to do with the air quality, the measure of the greenhouse gas emissions, what type of infrastructure is going to be done in the Sahtu.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. For that we'll go to Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For my final answer, we have an air monitoring station in Norman Wells. As things develop and expand, of course, we are going to take a look at the capacity of the station and ensure

that it has the capacity to measure all the necessary criteria on qualities of the air so that we can ensure and deal with all of the issues tied to the development. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's my final question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Committee, we are on 11-2, department summary. Environment and Natural Resources, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$2.235 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree we have finished consideration and concluded the Department of Environment and Natural Resources?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Campbell for joining us this evening. If I can get the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you to the Minister.

Committee, noting the clock, I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call the House back to order. Before I call the report of Committee of the Whole, I have been informed that you would like to do some more work to consider matters before Committee of the Whole. By authority given to me as Speaker, by Motion 1-17(4), I hereby place you back in Committee of the Whole to consider business before the House until such time as you are ready to report, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters (Reversion)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Does committee want to continue with the Legislative Assembly?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Mr. Speaker, Jackie Jacobson, do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring into the House, please?

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: I do, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Does everyone agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you would like to introduce your witnesses in the Chamber, please.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Mr. Chair, to my left I have Mr. Ouellette. To my right I have the Clerk of the House, Ms. Colette Langlois.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Mr. Ouellette, Ms. Langlois, welcome to the House. Mr. Speaker, do you have any opening comments?

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to present the 2014-2015 Capital Estimates of the Legislative Assembly. I want to thank the Board of Management of the Assembly for assisting me to develop the budget.

The Legislative Assembly is seeking funding this year of \$329,000 for two projects. The first is a replacement of our telephone system, which is about 15 years old and starting to have more issues as time goes on. We can keep it going for a short term, but it does need to be replaced as soon as possible.

The second project is some signage on our roadway. Every year we have a lot of tourists that want to see our building and it's terrible finding it because we have no signage. It's not clear right on the side of the highway; there are not enough signs. The same goes for the museum and the visitors centre. We will be working with them to oversee the project.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide my opening comments. I welcome any committee members' questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Mr. Speaker. We are going to go to general comments. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a question about the phone system. Many Members have stumbled across a problem lately where it's interrupting, and you can swear – whether lines are crossed or whatever – you will dial the phone, you will have somebody else on the line, you'll have a conversation, somebody calls in on the line like a third party. You would think it was like the old party line back in the old days. Most of Cabinet knows what a party line is; they are pretty old. But we young people over here wouldn't know what a party line is. That said, you do highlight in your opening comments about the phone system. Perhaps you can give us some detail as to when it will be replaced, because it is starting to turn into quite a significant issue. I would say beyond significant. It's a huge security issue and could create other types of liabilities that we're not aware of. I wouldn't mind some insight from the Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. For that answer I'll go to the Speaker.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have been having some issues with the phone lines being crossed through individuals, Members talking with constituents and somebody picking up the phone and somebody able to listen to conversations. So we have really been having issues with that. We've put a notice out to the Members that we are going to change the phone lines as soon as possible. As for a timeline, maybe I'll get Mr. Ouellette to answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Ouellette.

MR. OUELLETTE: As Members can appreciate, replacing a phone system is a fairly significant project. Right now we are in discussions with the government, the executive branch, in terms of what their plans are, because there are some efficiencies that could be gained looking at working with them on a telephone system.

We are waiting for them to give us some information in terms of they are doing a proof of concept. They are testing a telephone system on a smaller basis and we're waiting for some information on that. It's our hope that the telephone system will be replaced as soon as possible within the '14-15 fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ouellette. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate both the answer from the Speaker and certainly Mr. Ouellette. The one thing I would like to say, though, is for them to consider innovative technologies, whereas down south if you call an office, when you leave a message it actually e-mails people the message. There may be an opportunity to look at innovation this time.

As we can see, this building is just at its 20-year cycle, so the phone system hasn't been touched in 20 years other than, obviously, maintenance. That said, chances are the next phone system will be around for hopefully at least 20 years or more. I would encourage them to take advantage of those types of technologies that exist out there on various platforms. It's our one chance to be innovative because, I'll tell you, we won't be coming back to this. Who knows when somebody will be coming back to this? This is more of a comment, Mr. Chairman, but I thought I would just put that on the record. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Mr. Hawkins. I will treat that as a comment. Committee, we are at general comments. Is committee prepared to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We are going to defer 1-2 here. We will return to that in a second. Page 1-4 in your capital estimates. Legislative Assembly, activity summary, Office of the Clerk, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$329,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I would like to return to 1-1 for the department summary. Legislative Assembly, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$329,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree we've concluded consideration and concur with the Legislative Assembly?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I would like to thank the Speaker, Ms. Langlois and Mr. Ouellette for being here tonight. If I could get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses out of the Chamber, please. Thank you.

Ms. Bisaro, what is the wish of committee now?

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like to consider Bills 13, 14, 15 and 16.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Okay. We'll start with Bill 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act. We'll go to the Minister for him to introduce the bill. That would be Minister R.C. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was paying attention. I was just looking for it on my iPad.

---Laughter

And I found it. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks for the opportunity to introduce Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act. The Curfew Act is old legislation and is no longer required. Municipal governments have the authority to pass bylaws to establish curfews.

With respect to designated authorities, the Curfew Act provides that the Commissioner may establish a community as a curfew district upon receiving a petition signed by two-thirds of the parents of the community. No designated authority has shown interest in the act's continuance; therefore, the Curfew Act should be repealed.

I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. With that, we're going to allow the chairman of the standing committee which reviewed Bill 13 to make committee comments on the bill. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure met on September 18, 2013, to review Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act. Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 13 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

That concludes committee's comments on Bill 13. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. We'll ask Minister McLeod if he has any witnesses he'd like to bring into the Chamber. Minister McLeod.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the House.

Mr. McLeod, if you would be kind enough to introduce your witnesses in the Chamber this evening.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left I have Mr. David Kravitz, manager of community governance; to my right I have Mr. Thomas Druyan, legislative counsel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Kravitz, Mr. Druyan, welcome to the Chamber this evening. General comments on Bill 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I hear detail, so we're going to do a clause-by-clause review of the bill. Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. It's a one-clause bill. Does committee agree that Bill 13 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 13 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee wish to proceed with Bill 14?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. With that, I would like to thank our witnesses for this evening here and I'd like to get the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you, Minister McLeod.

Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act. With that, we're going to go to the Minister responsible for the introduction of the bill. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks for the opportunity to introduce Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act. There are currently no businesses in the Northwest Territories licensed as pawnbrokers or second-hand dealers under the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act. Furthermore, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has not issued a pawnbroker or second-hand dealer's licence within corporate memory.

Many jurisdictions in Canada, such as Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, have repealed similar legislation, leaving the regulation of pawnbrokers and second-hand dealers to municipalities. Municipal governments in the Northwest Territories have the authority to regulate pawnbrokers, second-hand dealers and other business by creating classification and licensing schemes through bylaws. The absence of a pawnbroker and second-hand dealer industry in smaller NWT communities renders the legislation largely irrelevant.

Should pawnbrokers or second-hand dealers open in smaller communities in the future, they may be regulated through the bylaws or through the territorial Business Licensing Act.

I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. We're going to offer the chairman of the standing committee which reviewed the bill to make comments, and that's Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure met on September 18, 2013, to review Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act. Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 14 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 14. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. With that, we'll return to Minister Robert C. McLeod to see if he has any witnesses he'd like to bring into the Chamber.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes I would, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Minister McLeod, if you could please introduce your witnesses to the House.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left I have Mr. Kevin Brezinski. He is the director of public safety. To my right I have Mr. Thomas Druyan, who is the legislative counsel. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Brezinski and Mr. Druyan, welcome back to the House. General comments, Bill 14. Committee, we're going to go to clause-by-clause review of the bill. Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers Act and Second-hand Dealers Act. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does the committee agree that Bill 14 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 14 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'd like to thank our witnesses here for this evening. I'd like to thank the Minister as well. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. Thank you.

Does committee agree to continue with Bill 15?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. With that, we'll go to Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act. We'll go to the Minister responsible to introduce the act. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to be here today to speak about Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act. I'd like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of this bill. This legislation will require health facilities to report instances where injured persons present themselves for treatment of gunshot wounds and stab wounds. It will also protect those involved in reporting from liability. Please note that this requirement does not relate to stab wounds that are believed to be either self-inflicted or accidentally inflicted. All gunshot wounds will require reporting. The purpose will be to assist RCMP to provide a prompt response to violence incidences as well as to address firearms safety issues.

Currently, eight Canadian jurisdictions have enacted legislation of this nature, five jurisdictions have enacted legislation for the reporting of both gunshot and stab wounds, while three jurisdictions have enacted legislation for gunshot wounds only.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that the committee may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. We will offer the opportunity for the chairman of the standing committee which reviewed the bill. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act, on September 17, 2013. A clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day.

The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The bill requires that all gunshot and stab wounds other than those wounds reasonably believed to be self-inflicted or unintentionally inflicted be reported to health facilities and ambulance services that treat those injuries. The bill outlines the information that must be reported and the circumstances that trigger the reporting obligation.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act, to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 15. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. We'll return to Minister Abernethy to see if he has any witnesses he would like to bring into the House.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I do, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the House.

Mr. Abernethy, if you can please introduce your witnesses to the House this evening.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my left is Shirley Kemeys-Jones. She's the assistant deputy minister of the Solicitor General's branch of the Department of Justice, and Ian Rennie, legislative council, on the right.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Rennie, Ms. Kemeys-Jones, welcome to the House this evening. Committee, we are on Bill 15,

general comments. Is committee prepared to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act. Clause 1.

---Clause 1 through 8 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that Bill 15 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 15 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'd like to thank Minister Abernethy, Mr. Rennie and Ms. Kemeys-Jones for joining us this evening. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses from the House.

Would committee like to proceed with Bill 16?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act. With that, we'll go to the Minister responsible to introduce the bill. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to be here today to talk to you about Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act. I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of the bill.

Justices of the peace fulfill an important role within the justice system of the Northwest Territories. They serve in communities where they work and live, performing a range of judicial and quasi-judicial functions. Justices of the peace carry out duties on a part-time basis and generally preside over summary conviction matters arising out of the territorial statutes, municipal bylaws and selected Criminal Code matters. They regularly conduct bail hearings and issue warrants and summons.

The chief judge of the Territorial Court has overall supervisory power for justices of the peace. The chief judge in 2009 noted that justices of the peace are not afforded protection from civil liability under territorial legislation. This leaves JPs vulnerable to being sued personally in a civil action for a decision made in their official capacity. The current chief judge has once again raised this concern and suggested that it be addressed.

Protection to Territorial Court judges is offered through the Territorial Court Act and most jurisdictions extend similar protect to their justices of the peace. The department is proposing to amend the Justices of the Peace Act to provide JPs with statutory immunity from civil actions unless they act maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that committee members may have regarding Bill 16.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. At this time we will return to the chair of the standing committee which reviewed this bill. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act, on September 17, 2013. A clause-by-clause review was conducted the same day.

The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The bill provides justices of the peace for the protection from civil liability so long as they do not act maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act, to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 16. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. We'll go back to Mr. Abernethy to see if he has any witnesses this evening.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I do, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you will please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Mr. Abernethy, if you can please introduce your witnesses to the House.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today on my left is Gary MacDougall, the director of legal registries; and on my right, Ian Rennie, legal counsel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister. Mr. MacDougall, Mr. Rennie, welcome to the House. General comments, Bill 16. Is the committee prepared to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 12 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that Bill 16 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 16 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I would like to thank our witnesses for this evening. If I could get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort them from the House, please. Thank you, Minister.

Ms. Bisaro, what is the wish of the committee?

MS. BISARO: Mr. Chair, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. There is a motion on the floor to report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report from the Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015; Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act; Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbroker and Second-hand Dealers Act; Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act; Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act, and would like to report that Bills 13, 14, 15 and 16 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do you have a seconder, Mr. Dolynny? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Before we head out for the day, I just wish everyone a good weekend with your families. Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Monday, October 28, 2013, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions

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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 25-17(4), Day of Remembrance for Pregnancy and Infant Loss
18. First Reading of Bills
- Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- Bill 3, Wildlife Act
 - Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act
 - Bill 18, Apology Act
 - Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013
 - Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act
 - Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act
 - Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act
 - Committee Report 6-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 3: Wildlife Act
 - Committee Report 7-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 24: An Act to Amend the Liquor Act
 - Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013
 - Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015
 - Tabled Document 134-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014
 - Tabled Document 135-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
- Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act
 - Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act
- Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act
 - Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act
23. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, October 28th, at 1:30 p.m.
- ADJOURNMENT
- The House adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

