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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, March 9, 2015****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bouchard, 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 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 182-17(5):
OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT
AND JUSTICE UPDATES**

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice is committed to this Assembly's goals of healthy, educated people and vibrant, safe communities. We contribute to achieving these goals by offering a range of programs and services that give individuals the tools and support they need to address the challenges and poor choices that often result in criminal charges and incarceration. As with any organization, we are always looking for ways, big and small, to improve our programs and services to better help people make healthy choices. Given that commitment, we welcome the report and recommendations of the Auditor General tabled in this House last week.

This performance audit provides us with valuable feedback on our programs and services, many of which are consistent with our own recent observations and the continuing evolution of corrections across Canada. I have accepted all of the recommendations in the Auditor General's report. I can assure everyone we will address the issues raised. The OAG recommendations allow us to refine and focus our ongoing work to modernize and continue to improve support for inmates and to ensure public safety.

Earlier this session I spoke about the Performance Assurance and Accountability Framework the department is advancing. This framework will be fully implemented by 2016 and will address how we support our staff as they carry out their duties. It will address the ethics and values they bring to their work, inject accountability into the processes in our

system, and allow us to apply policies and directives efficiently and effectively using best correctional practices.

We have a strong commitment to do whatever we can to prepare those who enter Northwest Territories correctional facilities to come back to live in our communities. We believe that people want to live full and productive lives and we will fulfill our role to offer every opportunity for that to happen. We also know we cannot support change by ourselves. It takes the support of you as leaders, our communities and many other service providers.

One of the reasons we work so hard to keep NWT residents here in the North is so they can get support from their families, their communities and ourselves as they work to change their lives. Keeping inmates in the NWT means they can continue to access cultural land activities, traditional and elder counsellors, healing and spiritual ceremonies that are effective and speak to the healing that NWT residents need to advance their rehabilitation.

I look forward to discussing the Auditor General's report and the work that we are doing in corrections in more detail with the Standing Committee on Government Operations during the hearings in May.

Corrections is only one part of the equation, Mr. Speaker. Helping people make better choices that keep them out of trouble with the law is another critical aspect of our work. I would like to tell Members today about some of the other actions the department is taking to find solutions for our residents besides entering a correctional facility.

As Members know, the Wellness Court began sitting in Yellowknife last year, with the support of partners in the Public Prosecution Service and the judiciary. This alternative court focuses on the offender rather than the offence. It addresses people's underlying issues, such as drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness and cognitive challenges. Through this program, individuals receive help to address their specific needs in the community rather than in a correctional environment.

The first sitting of the Wellness Court occurred on October 2, 2014, and it continues to sit every second Thursday. As of late February there are five

people participating in the program and 13 individuals have been referred. The department continues to refine the program with the judiciary as well as with other GNWT departments and community stakeholders.

I also want Members to know of a new development with another specialized court, the Domestic Violence Treatment Court. The eight-week program to support this court has been running in Yellowknife since 2011. It provides low-risk offenders who have accepted responsibility for their actions peaceful alternatives to violence in their domestic relationships. Training sessions for staff are scheduled to start this month, and by the end of April, this valuable program will be offered to residents of Hay River, the K'atlodeeche First Nation and Enterprise.

Members will also want to know that we have established an agreement with the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre in Yellowknife to once again provide a healing program for men who use violence in their intimate relationships. A New Day healing program is a part of larger system of accountability and safety to provide men with an alternative way of behaving with their partners and children. It was developed specifically for NWT residents with input and support from the Coalition Against Family Violence. To date, we have 12 clients who are attending individualized counselling sessions and 20 men who have been referred to the program.

Mr. Speaker, I remain committed to supporting the people of this territory and ensuring the Department of Justice is providing the best programs and services possible, delivered by our dedicated and professional staff. This recent report of the Auditor General was timely and will help further focus the work we were already doing to improve our offerings. We are confident this work will be done and I look forward to providing updates to Members as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Hawkins.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA HEALTH STATUS REPORT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, like my good colleague Mr. Ramsay, am happy to be back to work as well. I'm losing time on the clock, so I'd better get going.

The overreaching goal of the Conference Board of Canada is to benchmark the quality of life in Canada relative to its 15 peer countries. Most people agree that without good health care, quality

of life is severely compromised. On February 12th of this year, the Conference Board of Canada published results on the status of Canadians and their health with their 15 peer countries.

The report is known as How Canada Performs and zeroes in on key health care indicators, and the results are compared across Canada's provinces and territories as well as other countries such as, for example, the United States, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Japan and Australia. The Conference Board is not intending to rank Canada's health care, although the health care system has an impact on population health. The goal of the report is to evaluate health care status of Canadians and its peer countries.

The report tracks many indicators such as life expectancy, premature mortality, infant mortality, self-reported health status, mortality due to cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease, diabetes and suicides.

Overall, Canada earned a B grade on the health care report card, ranking eighth amongst these 16 peer countries. While the overall B grade is good, there is definitely room for improvement. Unfortunately, the Northwest Territories has some of the worst health care outcomes in Canada.

Four jurisdictions in Canada, the three territories plus Newfoundland and Labrador, received the lowest grade of D minus. In fact, the territories scored worst of all compared to other jurisdictions in Canada and the 15 peer countries. Poor health care outcomes among Aboriginal people may be affecting the overall results in the North because of our high population of Aboriginal people.

The Northwest Territories received a D minus in four indicators, ranking worse than the poorest performing peer countries on life expectancy, premature mortality, infant mortality and mortality due to cancer. The NWT also performed poorly on mortality due to respiratory disease, ranking third from the bottom and scoring a D. We only received a C grade when it came to suicide mortality and heart disease and stroke.

There is much more to talk about, but I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services about this terrible, if not dismal report on the state of health care in the Northwest Territories and what we are going to do about it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT APPLICATION OF PAYROLL TAX ON NORTHERN RESIDENTS

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1993 the Government of the Northwest Territories established the NWT Payroll Tax at 1 percent. In 2005 we upped that percentage to 2 percent.

Currently our government collects \$42.7 million in payroll tax.

This tax was originally created to tax everybody who worked in the Northwest Territories and then rebate the residents of the Northwest Territories their 2 percent. Since that time, the GNWT has begun to keep that tax from some of the higher paid individuals, higher income earners. We are collecting taxes from out of province, but now were taxing our residents.

In this time that we talk about cost of living, this is a factor. This is a major factor. We're not talking about exorbitant amounts of people; we're talking about people who make a certain amount of money who get their money back. That number of people is getting less and less. The average earner in the Northwest Territories now gets taxed that 2 percent and doesn't get the rebate back.

We need to improve this. This needs to be changed. We've had lots of people talk about the fly-in/fly-out workers and that we need to increase this payroll tax to 5 percent and give the payroll tax back to the residents of the Northwest Territories so that they can invest back into the Northwest Territories and help their cost of living in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we need this government to give the residents of the Northwest Territories a break, a tax break. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT CANDIDATE DIVERSITY IN UPCOMING TERRITORIAL ELECTION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the end of this sitting nears, we are only six to eight months away from a territorial election and with it an opportunity for concerned citizens to take a leadership role in the governance of our people, lands and resources. We have all heard criticisms, frustrations and suggestions from residents and constituents. Now is the time for individuals to consider stepping forward to provide leadership and to put their ideas into action.

As John Todd, an alumnus of this House, was fond of saying, "If you don't like the government policies, get elected." Politics is not a career choice; it's a calling, a vocation. It's an opportunity to participate in setting standards for government services.

The Legislature used to travel throughout the NWT for session, setting up shop in school gymnasiums and community halls, bringing government to the people where they lived. With the birth of this amazing building, we no longer do this, but outreach remains an essential part of our work to attract people to the political process and give them the skills to succeed.

Democracy depends on a cross-section of our society's voices being heard. Looking around the House today, I see an uneven ratio of men and women in this Chamber. Women make up to 50 percent of our population, and as Premier McLeod says, we need more female political leaders to participate in our democratic process. Their perspective adds benefit to our governance and they must be encouraged to use their voices. Supports exist with the Status of Women, who recently hosted a well-attended forum for women interested in running for political office, and some unions provide courses on campaigning. Such supports need expansion and enhancement.

Today's newspaper has an article highlighting a visit to the Legislative Assembly by high school students from Wekweeti and the inspiration they drew from it to enter politics. More opportunities to interact with politicians and school programs specifically aimed at encouraging political involvement are needed. I encourage families to have dinner conversations on political leadership and democracy.

Finally, I and, I'm sure, my colleagues are approachable and willing to discuss the experience of being a Member of the Legislative Assembly. We need experienced, thoughtful, dedicated, diverse and representative leadership to take our territory forward on a sound, evidence-based foundation. I encourage residents to give serious consideration to running in the upcoming territorial election this fall. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT CONTRACTOR SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many times do we need to hear Ministers say, "Our staff are our most valuable resource," or better yet, "We are committed to health and safety," or finally, "We are developing a robust Occupational Health and Safety Program that meets legislative requirements"?

Every one of our Ministers at one time or another spews these paid political announcements about as freely as the falling snow. Yet the courts have clearly told us our failure of the safety promise. Territorial Supreme Court judge Garth Malakoe on Action 2013-000272 said, "The ultimate goal of workers safety legislation is to create a culture of safety within the organization. Those organizations which incorporate such a culture will avoid breaches of such legislation and the accompanying monetary penalty."

This was read in just as the GNWT pleaded guilty – and I repeat guilty – of failing to live up to our

obligation as a principal contractor. This guilty plea cost the taxpayers a severe fine and, of course, unnecessary injury to an NWT worker.

When the GNWT doesn't respect our own laws, how can industry be expected to abide by the same laws? Clearly, the GNWT owes no less than for us to be held to a higher standard than that of industry.

This lack of a heightened responsibility took a different twist on Friday, March 6, 2015, in the House during Committee of the Whole when the Public Works and Services Minister was asked by the Member for Range Lake about the lack of a contractor management system in our shared procurement service model. When asked why basic safety procurement is not used, the reply is, "We would be eliminating the majority of our contractors in the small communities."

I couldn't believe my ears it was such a bold statement. Would we really be, as the Minister indicated in his words, leaving people out in the cold, or was this just a means to deflect responsibility and the apparent laziness of the department?

The Safety Act and its regulations are deemed the law that governs the safety and well-being of all Northerners. Again, the courts have reminded us of this, and with the multiple court cases still pending, one would think this wake-up call would resonate at our highest leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am appalled and dismayed that a Minister would even hint that a responsibility would be excused on the deceptive pitfall of a small community punch line.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. DOLYNNY: I know that many small community businesses agree with me and are feverishly working on the right path to a safety culture. They want to have contracts. They work very hard to meet the demands of a more robust safety environment, and they want to compete at a territorial and a national level. Clearly, we owe them the respect of having more clairvoyance on our own government. But more importantly, the GNWT owes all businesses and the workers of the NWT a real safety culture that lives up to the rigour of best practice that is in tune with the rest of Canada and one that is not still living in the 1980s. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak on a very successful program that this

government has initiated over the last few years and that's the NWT Youth Ambassador Program.

For those who don't really know about the program, it's just a guided and structural volunteer experience for NWT youth that provides the opportunity to develop significant life and job skills. Two programs that they've developed – and I believe the second one came out after running the first program successfully – is, first of all, just the Youth Ambassador Program. But what I've seen that was more evident – over this past weekend I went and checked out some of the training with the Minister and looked at our youth ambassadors getting prepared for this summer's Pan Am Games and Parapan Am Games – was the Youth Ambassador mentorship program, where our youth ambassadors who have gone through the program are actually mentors and actually instructing and leading this program now. So, we are getting young leaders teaching young leaders on all these great life and job skills, and how to go out and promote the Northwest Territories and all that the NWT has to offer, be great ambassadors, but also show our culture and our traditions and the great hospitality that Northerners do have.

Last night I was at the Traditional Games component in Inuvik, and it was great watching the youth ambassadors helping their peers develop and understand some of these cultural games. These are just young leaders, as I said, promoting our culture and our traditions to other Northerners and also people across Canada as they participate in many, many events: NWT Days, for one; the royal visit, Olympics. This summer they'll be at the Pan Am Games and the Parapan Am Games, as I mentioned.

One thing that was brought to my attention is where are the youth ambassadors who initially started this up? We hear things that they're counsellors, they're community leaders, they're professionals now who have gone through education and volunteering. It was really great to see some of these youth who I, in my previous job, worked with and seeing them take it to an extra level.

We have a lot of youth in the NWT who excel in arts, sports, academics, hunting, trapping. This program takes it one step further. It takes all of their strong characteristics and helps build the life skills that they need to succeed in life.

I will have questions for the Minister later on today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEHCHO PROCESS NEGOTIATIONS

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The negotiations process is a path that is taken when the parties believe they can make an agreement. My hope is

that the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Dehcho First Nations still believe they can work together.

Recently, the GNWT made an offer to the Dehcho First Nations in its efforts to move negotiations forward. However, as well intended the offer is, accusations of a “take it or leave it approach” and terse name calling has taken an unfortunate turn rather than examining the full merits of the offer and contemplating a counter offer.

It is my belief that the negotiations process is about working out issues and arriving at a common point of mutual interests. Before abandoning the negotiations, all options should be explored in the best interests of moving negotiations forward.

I will have questions for the Minister of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations later when I am given the opportunity.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEHCHO PROCESS NEGOTIATIONS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to support the Dehcho First Nations' aspirations for a settled claim and a fair and reasonable deal. The talks have indeed stalled and I hope not staled. There must be a way to sit down and find common ground once again.

Our government, Canada and the Dehcho First Nations has spent over 30 years of hard work on negotiations. It will be a shame not to evaluate the situation and to find a political solution.

Our Premier is an excellent negotiator and strong administrator. He will be remembered as the Premier that brought devolution home. I hope he can use that same strength to negotiate a land deal with the Dehcho First Nations, and I believe we are about 15 percent apart.

Mediation, while never popular, must be considered in this situation. Once again, we need the common ground, not a wedge that is driving us apart.

I will have questions for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs during question period.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SAHTU REGION SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week in the Assembly I will focus on economic and sustainable development in the Sahtu. In the North in all our regions we are rich with renewable resources, also with non-renewable resources and

with our people, our own people. We will continue to recognize our people with their awesome creativity.

If you ask for a comprehensive assessment of all the data on the potential of the great wealth with our renewable resources, it will be incredible. As an example, look at our good trappers and all the well-sought-after Mackenzie Valley furs, or the ever-empowering Great Bear River hydro.

Our non-renewable resources are in the billions, and that is still yet to be tapped. We can be energy independent. We have beautiful works of our designers, makers and shakers in the world of artists. In the olden days our fancy clothing was done because our mothers and sisters and aunts and grandmothers wanted us to dress up well and demonstrate that the makers were well taught and, more importantly, took the teachings of their elders seriously.

Today our way of life is now promoted as these designs are to be fashionable to wear, and we appreciate all people. We have good taste in Aboriginal art. For example, I say to this government, let's look at an international beading conference in the North in, let's say, Deline. Let's bring the world to the North through beading. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GENDER EQUITY IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, the day after International Women's Day, many, many women are still far from equal with men. Here in Canada some women are achieving their dreams, but many are not and this is particularly true for non-white Canadian women. There have been some advances recently and today I want to highlight one.

This past January our government joined eight other provinces and territories when it announced changes to our securities rules. Following the lead of Canadian securities regulators, we've adopted voluntary disclosure rules for publicly traded companies. They will now be required to report on their strategies to recruit more women to their boards and senior management. They'll be required to disclose the following: the number of women on the board and in executive officer positions; policies regarding the representation of women on the board; targets related to the representation of women on the board and in executive officer positions; any consideration of the representation of women in the director identification and selection process; and any consideration of the representation of women in executive officer

positions when making executive officer appointments.

Rather than imposing quotas, which some women see as tokenism and which businesses often view as interference, this “comply or explain” approach is designed to increase pressure by government, investors, media and the public on big firms to make them take steps towards gender equality. A company is not required to have any particular gender diversity policies, practices or targets in place as part of its corporate governance practices, but if it does not it must disclose why it has not done so.

The voluntary disclosure approach contradicts a recent action by Germany. They just passed a law which requires that 30 percent of a company's director seats be given to women, but a recent study from the United Kingdom states, “voluntary targets are the way forward,” and that “legislating to ensure that a certain number of women are appointed to board positions will not solve the underlying reasons for failures in the boardroom gender diversity.”

So how is the North doing in this area? Well, not well. In 2013 in the three territories, an inventory of northern co-management boards identified a total of 34 boards with a total of 210 members. One hundred seventy-six, 84 percent, were males and 34, 16 percent, were females.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: Nine boards were composed exclusively of men and 18 boards had only a single female representative. The land and resource management regimes created through the settlement of our comprehensive land claims have given Aboriginal governments equitable representation and co-management, but have not promoted gender equity and board membership.

A strong case can be made for regulators and government nudging corporations and boards towards greater diversity at the highest levels. There's ample evidence that companies and boards with women in decision-making positions are more profitable, better governed, more internationally competitive and more responsive to financial crises. In fact, the data suggests the more women, the better the performance. Recent studies in the United States have shown women perform better than men when forced to make decisions under stressful situations. In fact, one study showed that when the stress level was higher, men took greater risks compared to the routes women chose.

I truly appreciated the support from my colleagues on Friday for women and International Women's Day, but without more women in decision-making

positions we are only paying lip service to women's equality. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, 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 a good friend of mine. He's a true Tu Nedhe resident, Tony Buggins. Tony was born in Reliance and was raised in Fort Resolution. Tony is a long-term Chipewyan radio broadcaster, musician and interpreter/translator. So, I'd like to welcome Tony to the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a Page who's a resident of Weledeh, Linnea Stephenson. I'd like to thank her for all her service to the House the past couple weeks, and also Jacob Schubert, who I don't know whether he's working today or not, but thanks to all of our Pages. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Welcome, Mr. Buggins, to the gallery. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings here today. Item 6, acknowledgements, Mr. Yakeleya.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 19-17(5):
CAROLINE BONNETROUGE –
WISE WOMAN AWARD RECIPIENT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to honour Mrs. Judy Lafferty of Fort Good Hope, who was chosen as the Sahtu recipient at the annual Wise Woman Awards yesterday.

Mrs. Lafferty is a traditional woman who has many skills. Her beadwork is remarkable. Her ability to prepare meat and make dry fish is impeccable, and her care in raising a family is priceless.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Lafferty has always mentioned that her learning came from her late mother, Mrs. Mary Barnaby, who is no stranger to the Sahtu region.

On behalf of the Sahtu, congratulations to Mrs. Lafferty and the other well-deserved recipients of the Wise Woman Awards. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, oral questions, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 762-17(5): SUPPORTS FOR SEWING AND BEADING CRAFTWORK

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of ITI. I want to ask the Minister of ITI, has his department been investigating or looking at a concept where international beading or design-making or makers come together in the North to share their experience with other designers around the world?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to my knowledge, I don't believe that's happened yet. I know the department has initiated some jewellery workshops across the territory, and we're looking forward to doing more things like that.

The issue with beading and, of course, the beadwork here in the Northwest Territories is it's probably some of the best in the world. If the Member has somebody in one of his communities in the Sahtu who's interested in trying to put a program like that together, that's something that we'd be interested in hearing about and helping support. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: People in the North are the best source as bead makers and Members around the Assembly here certainly demonstrate the fine work that our people have done in the Northwest Territories.

I would like to ask the Minister if he would maybe instruct his staff to look in the North and see if we could somehow formulate a discussion around having an international forum on beading and making vests or making jackets, right across. It would bring our people together with other international groups so that we could demonstrate our high quality of professionals.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, I can ask the staff at ITI about the concept. The other thing I'll mention to the Member, if he has someone who can spearhead putting together a proposal, a plan at the community level and advancing that to the regional office in Norman Wells, then we can take things from there. But I will commit to go back to the department and ask them their thoughts on this issue. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Has the department initiated some policies or regulations to protect our...(inaudible)...from any type of abuse or any type of stealing of our designs or our beadwork?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That's something I'll have to go back to the department and ask them about. I'm not aware of any patents or copyrights on anything like that. That's not to say that it may be

worth something the department wants to look at, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I look forward to that, Mr. Speaker. Also, sewing, beading and making jackets has a lot of power. Has the Minister ever engaged in this type of work with his department in conjunction with the Health department, asking the meaning behind the beadwork or putting together a moosehide jacket or traditional wear such as yours, Mr. Speaker, in regards to helping our people with issues in their life?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I certainly appreciate that there's a story behind every piece of beadwork that we see, not just here in the House but across the territory, and we certainly respect that. We'll continue to have a discussion. If there's a therapeutic side to that type of work, that activity, then that's something I'll have a discussion with my colleagues at ECE and Health and Social Services. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 763-17(5): DEHCHO PROCESS NEGOTIATIONS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I spoke about the Dehcho and their seemingly stalled talks with the GNWT. I guess what it's all about is since the onset of devolution, GNWT, of course, takes more of a lead only because now we have the lands in question. So, maybe I'll ask the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs about our new role in negotiating with the Dehcho First Nations? Previous to this we were leaning heavily on Canada. I'd like to know how much weight we have as the GNWT negotiating with the Dehcho First Nations. Mahsi cho.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The land claims negotiation process with Dehcho First Nations involves three parties: the Dehcho First Nations, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Certainly, the three parties have invested over 30 years of hard negotiating time. I was getting at that I think the GNWT is taking a more important role. In fact, Mr. Premier met with the Dehcho leadership around two weeks ago, and they left that meeting somewhat disheartened. They thought they were there to speak with the Premier at that time that we hosted the meeting and find some more common ground.

They want to complete the negotiations and fulfill their aspirations for self-government.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs once again, how much weight does the GNWT have in our negotiations since the onset of devolution? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Government of the Northwest Territories made a comprehensive offer to conclude the outstanding land and resource issues and a draft agreement-in-principle. The Government of the Northwest Territories offer included a land quantum of 37,500 square kilometres. This would result in the Dehcho First Nations having title to 37,500 square kilometres of land with surface title and approximately 17.78 percent interest in the subsurface of the entire Dehcho Settlement Area.

The Government of the Northwest Territories' offer also included elements that would guide the completion of a Dehcho Land Use Plan, set out the structure and responsibilities of the Dehcho Resource Management Authority, set out the authorities of the Dehcho Government in relation to renewable resources and set out the process the parties would use during final agreement negotiations to identify settlement lands, finalize protected areas and update the Dehcho Land Use Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'd like to thank the Minister for that response. Certainly, it almost sounds like a final offer. I guess what I'm in support of is we have to sit down with the Dehcho again. In fact, I think their latest asking is, geez, we're 7,000 square kilometres apart. While mediation is never a popular way to go about it, I'd like to ask the Minister: What are his thoughts on getting mediation and getting back to the table, finding some more common ground, and let's continue to move forward with our government and the Dehcho First Nations.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Government of the Northwest Territories will continue to work in good faith with the representatives of the Dehcho First Nations Process. However, this can only be made with frank and honest conversations. This means that we must be able to lay out the extent of what we can do while still being fair to everyone. This is simply being honest and respectful. It is not being a bully or acting in a threatening manner.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I believe that we can continue to do it. We've got the power in this House. With devolution, we're growing up, and I believe that we can find a way. I've indicated in my Member's statement about how much I value Mr. Premier's

negotiating abilities, and I believe that he can find a way around it.

I guess one of the barriers for those additional 7,000 square kilometres is about the precept or the concept that your population base is based on figures from 30 years ago. I would like to ask the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, can he revisit that or find a flexible way around that old population base in order that we can expand on the land quantum?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The whole premise and process of land claims negotiations is based on the Dene-Metis Comprehensive Claim from 20 years ago. It's being fair to a process where we've seen four land claim and resources agreements settled based on populations from 20 years ago. For a party to wait 20 years to negotiate whose population increases, it means that there's a difference between the settlements. That's why both the Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories government are using the populations that were in place at the time of the draft Dene-Metis Comprehensive Claim 20 years ago. The population numbers from then are significantly different now. Obviously, the numbers are significantly higher now.

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

QUESTION 764-17(5): DEHCHO PROCESS NEGOTIATIONS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too wanted to ask questions to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. I'd like to ask the Minister, can he clarify whether the offer of 37,000 square kilometres is the take it or leave it offer or the final offer?

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories is working hard to find solutions to the significant outstanding issues at the Dehcho Process negotiations. Part of this work included making an offer to the Dehcho on land quantum and how to conclude a Dehcho agreement-in-principle. This offer took many months to develop and incorporated the work of senior officials appointed by myself and the Dehcho grand chief to consider innovative solutions to these very challenges. When I wrote to the grand chief to clarify our offer, I indicated that we were looking forward to receiving a response by April 6th, so we're still waiting for that response.

MR. NADLI: I think the negotiations process at this point has reached a perilous point where perhaps parties might walk away. There could be a call where negotiations are basically going to come to a halt, and that's not in the best interests of the

people of the Deh Cho, of the NWT, or even Canada, for that matter, for the uncertainty of the land tenure and the ownership and the jurisdiction to not be clarified.

At what point would the Premier or the Minister call upon his leadership and call upon the Dehcho leadership to step in, instead of leaving the negotiation process and the fate of the whole discussions of land and self-government to their officials and become involved and bring it to the spirit where it's supposed to happen so that leaders can sit side by side with each other and come to some constructive discussion? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. Certainly that is what we would like to do if we can get to that.

The Government of the Northwest Territories negotiators advise the Dehcho and federal negotiators that while offers were being exchanged and considered at the highest levels between the parties, main table negotiations should be paused to allow the Dehcho First Nations time to consider the GNWT offer. We are still waiting for a response. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Can the Minister provide an update of the Dehcho Process negotiations? I know he's spent a lot of time explaining where the process is at, but from his perspective, is there hope? Is there a point where we should be concerned? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: There's always hope. From what I'm hearing from the two Members here, it seems apparent that the Dehcho First Nations have rejected the land offer that we've made, but that is a bilateral process. It was between the Dehcho First Nations and the Government of the Northwest Territories. We have offered to go to the communities to explain the offer that we've made, and we've also offered to anyone that invites us to come to present that. Obviously, at the end of the day, there's always the main table, which involves the federal government, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Dehcho First Nations, where we can all use that process to decide the way forward. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you. My final question is in all these negotiations sometimes they come to a point where you can't really resolve the differences.

Are there any provisions within the negotiations policy of this government or else the framework agreement, that's been hammered out with all the parties, for any provision for a dispute mechanism? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. The framework agreement does provide for that and the Dehcho negotiators had requested a main table session today and, ultimately, they decided to cancel it, but

the provisions of the draft agreement do provide for that. So when we come to it, we'd be prepared to discuss it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

QUESTION 765-17(5):
APPLICATION OF NWT PAYROLL TAX
ON NORTHERN RESIDENTS

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of Finance today in relation to my statement on payroll tax.

How much of the \$42.7 million collected in payroll tax is paid by NWT residents and what percent of those residents can get their payroll tax back? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The payroll tax is administered under the Payroll Tax Act and is levied at the rate of 2 percent of employment earnings. The low-income earners get back the tax when they file. The question is in earners; as well, the answer is that the payroll tax is non-refundable. Although the refundable cost of living tax credit was introduced at the same time as a payroll tax, it is viewed as an offset to the payroll tax. The cost of living tax credit is calculated on the basis of net income and can be claimed by tax filers regardless of whether payroll tax is paid. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Do we actually know how many people in the Northwest Territories, what percentage of people that file taxes get their payroll tax back in any form? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: With regard to the previous question, over the past five-year period from 2009-2010 to 2013-14, the average payroll tax generated was \$38.7 million per year. In 2013-14 the GNWT collected \$41.245 million in payroll tax revenue. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: We've been talking in this House about generating more people in the Northwest Territories. Would it not be an incentive for people to stay in the Northwest Territories if that payroll tax was 5 percent? Can we increase the payroll tax to 5 percent, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We raised it from 1 to 2 percent. To go to 5 percent would be problematic just because of the cost to administer it and the value to us in the long run and the fact that Canada Revenue Agency looks very carefully at payroll taxes and has a fairly jaundiced view of their appropriateness. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: My understanding of this tax is it was created to tax those people who work in the Northwest Territories, but we give those taxes back to the residents of the Northwest Territories. When did the Government of the Northwest Territories change the payroll tax? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The payroll tax is the same. The cost of living tax credit is in place that benefits Northerners and allows for some of the money to be recovered through the tax refund process. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 766-17(5):
CONTRACTOR SAFETY
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I spoke about a failure to implement a contractor management system in our shared procurement process and that this lack of foresight is a cause of a great many issues in our overall safety culture. My questions today are for the Minister of Public Works and Services.

We have been given updates from the department and the Minister by de facto being in good standing with the WSCC or, in other words, being paid up constitutes a minimum baseline requirement of a safety program for NWT businesses that apply for contract status with the GNWT.

Can the Minister confirm if this is the only standard safety requirement the GNWT uses in procured shared services? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister of Public Works, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, that is not the only safety requirement. We ensure that the contractors are able to provide a letter indicating they are in good standing with WSCC. However, that's not the only requirement. We have construction safety on the agenda before a contract is awarded and there are several items the contractor must have in place before they are able to contract with GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOLYNNY: It has been brought to our attention that NWT businesses are to self-register with the GNWT in preparation for RFP application within our shared procurement services.

Can the Minister indicate how are NWT business safety programs or services evaluated for relevance, certification or standardization given the vast array of national safety standards and criteria out there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The Department of Public Works takes safety seriously. We are working with industry to ensure that when individuals are on site

that not only the main contractor has followed all the NWT Safety Regulations under the NWT Safety Act and that all the subs that go on site also follow that. We have several items, anywhere from clothing to regulations with WHMIS need to be taken by employees. I'm not sure I'm following what self-registration is. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Almost every other jurisdiction in Canada has, in one form or other, a contractor management system that identifies, assesses and controls the standards of business and workers in the workplace, especially in safe operations. Ironically, the GNWT feels a system will cause small communities to be left out in the cold.

Can the Minister clearly explain and defend the department's position on its refusal to instill a modern day safety management tool? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: This is not just a small communities issue. If this is implemented across the board, it will leave a substantial number of contractors unable to work with the GNWT. That includes large companies that are not registered in the contract management system, including subs. There are contractors that are going to be able to get jobs, but their subs won't be able to go on site. Contract management systems can be used to prequalify contractors. So, in a sense, if a contractor is not registered with the contract management system, then they wouldn't be able to bid. We could also be able to do an evaluation and could use it for evaluating bids, tenders, evaluating proposals and so on. It is something we are moving towards, but we're not going to rush in and eliminate all the people we have been doing business with to date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it's really hard for me to know, and any other person listening, what exactly is a baseline of safety required by contractors working for the GNWT, especially if the GNWT is acting as a principal contractor. To be truthful, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the GNWT knows that either. So we know by de facto, the WSCC is a program they use and we also heard from the Minister "we use several items" and we don't know what that means.

Can the Minister indicate what the minimum baseline requirements are for safety that businesses must have in place in order to bid on RFPs within a procured service model? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: In addition to being in good standing with WSCC, the contractor has to have a copy of the safety plan on site. Also, they have to have regular meetings on safety through the process. Depending on the size of the contract and the nature of the contract, if there are hazardous materials such as asbestos, they have

to have an abatement plan for those items. For the real large projects, even our own project officers who go on site, need to have job-specific orientations before they get on site and work with the contractor. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 767-17(5):
NWT YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made comments earlier about the Youth Ambassador Program. We get a lot of youth who go through that program, but we also get a lot of youth who go through various programs through the Northwest Territories. We do have the successes but we also have some youth who fall through the cracks.

I want to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, what type of follow-up does the department do, or the division, in following up with students after they have successfully gone through the program? As I mentioned, there is a mentorship program, but not everybody makes that mentorship program. What are we doing for the youth who don't make it to that second level? Is there a follow-up component to this Youth Ambassador Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think of all the programs that are run through the GNWT, the Youth Ambassador Program is one of the best. This is one program that's going to have long-term benefits for the people of NWT. A lot of these young people are going to be our future leaders. In my time in interacting with them, I think the future of the NWT is in good hands.

To the question, the sport and recreation youth staff are constantly in contact with a lot of the youth ambassador alumni and potential youth ambassadors just to support and encourage them to pursue a healthy lifestyle and set goals and work hard. There is some follow-up with the former youth ambassadors, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: I know the department does a great job. As I mentioned, they have developed a lot of life skills and job skills. A lot of questions we've heard through this sitting of the Legislative Assembly are the human resources issue and vacancies in some of the jobs.

Does the Minister and his department work with the Department of Human Resources to look at how we can get some of these youth ambassadors, who are fairly young, anywhere from the age of 18 and 24, to fill some of these vacancies? Has the Minister had these kinds of discussions with the Minister of

Human Resources, or any other department for that matter? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: My information is there are 11 youth ambassadors who have been hired as summer students and have completed internships. There are six former youth ambassadors who are actually employed within the GNWT, and some of the successes you can measure. We have some youth ambassadors who are holding councillor positions within community governments, and there are some that are executive directors of NGOs. We've had some that have taken international volunteer placements and many have had academic scholarships and bursaries. Many of them are in volunteer roles in the community. We've had four youth ambassadors who have actually won the Outstanding Volunteer Award for the youth category. So, there's a lot of opportunity for them there and the department tries to do what it can to ensure that there are opportunities for them within the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOSES: It's great to hear all those successes. Aside from asking questions about the success of this program, can the Minister possibly commit to work on some sort of success story on the website? I know on the NWT website there's a blog where youth ambassadors can post things, but would the Minister be willing to create a success story on all the years that this program has been going? Success stories that we've had among our youth ambassadors to showcase how successful the program is but also encourage youth that are coming up to look into the program and also join in the successes of that program? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: This program has been in effect since 2007. We've had about 250 youth ambassadors go through this program. There have been 27 youth ambassador projects. We're coming up on 10 years here soon, and we've had some discussions of maybe doing a 10-year anniversary booklet or something to do exactly as the Member stated, just to measure some of the success we've had in the program. But we also have the proud2bnwt youth website, and that suggestion has some merit to it. We could possibly post a lot of the success stories on there, because this is a program that we as a government should be quite proud of in the development of our young people across the Northwest Territories. Any chance we have of highlighting their successes I think will go a long way in the development of them plus future youth who are coming up through the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTIONS 768-17(5):
 CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA
 HEALTH STATUS REPORT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Can the Minister offer an explanation for the wide discrepancy between the NWT's self-reported health status, which scored an A plus, and their actual health status, which scored a D minus?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Health, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are large health disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in residents across Canada. Poor health outcomes in the proportionately larger Aboriginal population here in the Northwest Territories, compared to other jurisdictions, is influencing the overall results in the NWT.

To be clear, the Conference Board of Canada's report, *How Canada Performs: A Report Card on Canada*, measures health outcomes based on 10 indicators which evaluate health outcomes as opposed to health care systems. Health outcomes are primarily influenced by socio-economic conditions, such as education, housing, income or employment, which are the responsibilities of multiple departments here in the Government of the Northwest Territories. To that end, the government, in cooperation with the social programs as well as economic development, have been working on a number of action plans including the Mineral Development Action Plan, the Economic Development Action Plan, the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, the Action Plan on Anti-Poverty, following up on the NWT Anti-Poverty Framework as well as early childhood development. A number of things are being done in this area to help improve these outcomes over time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HAWKINS: The only one that the Minister left off the table was devolution to help people's health.

Can the Minister explain what areas under his responsibility, under health care indicators, why there is such a discrepancy between the report and the D minus received, rather than blaming other departments and referencing other proposals by departments? We're talking about health care indicators and health.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Once again, to be clear, health outcomes are measured using 10 indicators that evaluate health outcomes, not health care systems. We are making improvements to the provision of health and social services here in the Northwest Territories. We're moving forward with the health transformation with a focus on all residents of the Northwest Territories.

I just want to point out that the report from the Conference Board of Canada provided several recommendations for the NWT to improve health outcomes such as using a tailored approach including Aboriginal traditional knowledge and health policy, creative programs focused on Aboriginal youth, and developing culturally appropriate measurement tools and indicators to evaluate health and wellness programs. We're evaluating and considering these recommendations and seeing how we can incorporate them to improve the health outcomes of residents of the Northwest Territories.

I would also just like to highlight that we have created the Aboriginal health and community wellness division which is working very closely with Aboriginal governments and partners throughout the territory to improve the outcomes of all residents of the Northwest Territories.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister cites the MDS, that's Mineral Development Strategy, and the EOS, the Economic Opportunities Strategy, as the solution for this. I'd like to actually hear what the Department of Health is doing when it comes to improving the outcomes of life expectancy, premature mortality, infant mortality and mortality due to cancer specific to health.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I understand the Member's point but I do have to continually remind everybody that health outcomes are primarily influenced by socio-economic conditions and it's going to take all of us working together, all of the departments working together.

With respect to the Department of Health and Social Services, we are the lead on the Anti-Poverty Action Plan; we are a partner on Early Childhood Development Action Plan; we're the lead on Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan. We've also got a number of different cancer strategies that we're partnering with the Government of Canada to implement here in the Northwest Territories, and we're working on the development of a cancer strategy. We also have focused programs on chronic conditions like cancer, diabetes and a number of things, and we're working closely with our partners and the Aboriginal governments through our Aboriginal health and community wellness division, because many of the solutions, we recognize, are out in the communities and the people want to be involved in their solutions, which is something we heard very clearly during our Weaving our Wisdom Gathering here last week.

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

MR. HAWKINS: My final question is I'm curious as to what the Minister's briefing note will read as to engagement on a pan-territorial strategy as to improve the D minus across the three territories as

we work towards a partnership for improving Aboriginal health and the health of all Northerners across the NWT and our two sister territories.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We already work with the other two territories on a number of initiatives. I had a conversation with the two Ministers last week and we've agreed to get together and have a tri-territorial meeting later this spring to discuss other areas where we can work together to improve the wellness and health outcomes of residents of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

QUESTION 769-17(5):
WINTER 2015 FUR PRICES

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few questions for the Minister of ITI. Earlier this fall there was a forecast that the fur prices would drop this year. It's been a little over a week now since the February auction. I'd like to ask the Minister, were the fur prices as low as expected this winter?

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prices of fur did come off last year. As the auction was just held recently, I haven't got the information back from the department on what prices fur was fetching at this auction, but I would be more than happy to provide the Member and other Members with an update as soon as I get that information.

MR. BLAKE: I'd like to ask the Minister, what affected the fur prices this year? As the Minister may recall, last year we had some of the highest prices for marten and other furs.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Obviously, we'd like to see a return to the very high prices for fur. The more money our trappers across the territory can earn from the sale of those furs goes directly back into the smaller communities and the local economy, so we'd like to see prices back where they were last year.

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

QUESTION 770-17(5):
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
IN NORTHERN SOCIETY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women Council. I want to follow up on my Member's statement. I also want to follow up and ask these questions following a very excellent campaign school that was held in February and because International Women's Day was just yesterday.

Both men and women acknowledge that there is a need for equality, and I talked today about gender equity on boards and organizations, but I'd like to ask the Minister, first of all, about the vision of he, as Minister for women, but also the GNWT, the government, what is the vision of this government in regards to the advancement of women towards equality in our society?

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we see equitable participation of women in all aspects of the government. As well, we would like to see improvements made in a number of areas in the communities. Right now we're working primarily with the Status of Women Council and the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories and we would like to see more representation in this Legislative Assembly. I think that as a government, 64 percent of our employees are female and 50 percent of our deputy minister cadre are women. I think that certainly we want to see more women advance into the senior management of our government, but also we feel that we need to find additional resources to help support the two main women organizations that we work with.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that response. I am very proud that we have a lot of senior managers who are women and I'm glad that the government recognizes that as an accomplishment.

The fact that the Minister says that we want to get better, I need to ask the next question, which is: How is the Minister, how is this government going to affect that vision, going to effect that change?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As my colleagues have been saying, I think we have 260 days until the next election. Obviously, an important thing for us to do is to make sure that women's issues are provided for through the transition process both at the departmental level and at the highest level of this Legislative Assembly. We are also looking at gender-based analysis that's been around for a long time. I think we want to revisit that to make sure that it is a lens that we run our programs through as we go forward, and it would be nice if we could find ways to increase the funding for the women's organizations.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister: yes, nice indeed, but I think we need to get beyond nice and we need to say yes, this is something that we're going to do. I've spoken about this before. Both the Status of Women Council and the Native Women's Association have a very minimal budget and in order for us to effect any real change we're going to have to provide more resources. I would like to see an annual campaign school, not one every four years, because there are women in elected

positions at other orders of government as well as the territorial that need this assistance.

I know there's no funding in the '15-16 budget. We've already been over the budgets and there's nothing in there at this point for increases for those two organizations.

Will the Minister commit to me that he will do what he can? He has mentioned transition, but will he do what he can to provide for greater resources for these two organizations in the '16-17 budget? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'm very pleased to point out that we were able to provide for a \$25,000 increase to a combined Status of Women Council and Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories. It may seem like a small amount, but when we're holding the line on new initiatives on forced growth, I think that was an accomplishment, and we've been able to work with the Status of Women Council on an ad hoc basis and certainly, as part of that transition, that would be something we would identify for the next government that should be a priority, is to work the funding for women's organizations that we work with. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. Yes, \$25,000 is not a heck of a lot of money. However, it probably barely covers the increases to salaries and so on for those organizations, but it's a bit, so I appreciate that.

The organizations that are doing this work, particularly the Status of Women Council is a group of three people, there are only three employees and in order for us to make advances, particularly in our small communities, there needs to be a much greater infusion of cash. So for us to expand activities throughout the territory as opposed to keeping it in Yellowknife and or regional centres, there needs to be a bigger infusion.

So, to the Minister: I know things are tight, but if the government is truly behind women's equality, will you find the money to do that? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. We will make sure that we set the foundation through transitional arrangements for the 18th Assembly. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 771-17(5):
HISTORY OF THE RCMP
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions today for the Minister of Justice. About two years ago in the House I made some comments and asked some questions about

possibly looking at getting some archives on the history of the RCMP in the Northwest Territories. The Minister, back then, mentioned that it would be a good idea to look into this and see the possibility of creating some type of dedication at the museum or some room that would highlight the history of the RCMP in the Northwest Territories and how it pertains to Canada.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice if there have been any updates on creating that type of exhibit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the RCMP has a long and historic significance to the Northwest Territories and to the people of the Northwest Territories. We have moved forward and I'm glad the Member is asking me these questions today. There is a need to preserve and share the extensive history of "G" Division here in the Northwest Territories. We're currently working with a number of partners to develop a display and travelling educational pieces commemorating special constables and the seamstresses and interpreters and the guides that helped the RCMP officers survive here in the early days in the Northwest Territories.

A steering committee comprised of the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the RCMP "G" Division has been working to develop exhibits and to display the history of the RCMP here in the NWT. So I thank the Member for his question. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: I appreciate the Minister's comments and response. In terms of creating some type of exhibit to take on the road, I think it would be a great opportunity for this government to do that. It would not only talk about the history of the RCMP but it would create a stronger partnership between the RCMP and the communities and actually get the RCMP engaging with community members and especially the youth in the schools. So, I was wondering if he has a timeline on this exhibit that might be going out into the communities. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The preservation of oral history, the gathering of artifacts, stories, photographs and mementos will flow from the work that is going to be done. Communities and elders will be engaged and they'll be able to provide valuable insight into how we're going to do this. As far as timeline goes, in early April the first team will be heading to Fort McPherson to start the interviewing process and record memories for generations to come to hear about those early days as part of a unique interactive display that we're going to be putting together.

This committee is targeting Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017 as a national milestone for unveiling the projects. So the work is going to continue to happen in anticipation of 2017 and Canada's 150th anniversary. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: That was leading up into my next question in terms of 2017. I was speaking with some people at the Wellness Conference last week and we got around to discussing 150 years come 2017, and I'm glad to hear that this project will be unveiling that.

Would there be others, possibly special presentations to our long-serving constables, especially Aboriginal constables who have done a lot of work with the Lost Patrol, the Mad Trapper, those kinds of things? Is something in the works to create that? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The context is going to be on the special constables and the role that they play here in the Northwest Territories, many of which are now elderly. The committee is reviewing options to conduct oral interviews that will preserve the valuable stories that all of these individuals would have. We're also examining the possibility of producing a travelling display that could reach every community and be available in schools across the Northwest Territories. This would allow the history of the RCMP to be shared across the Northwest Territories, and we're also exploring the option of a dedicated website as well. We also are looking at other ways that we can enhance the educational component of all the exhibits and artifacts that we're going to collect.

The Member is correct; in 1903 the first Mounted Police post north of the Arctic Circle was established at Fort McPherson. Horseback and dogsled teams were the mode of transportation at that time. So we've come a long way, but it's important that we record the history and all of the good work that the RCMP have done here in the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we proceed to 2017, I know of one question I'd asked about two years ago was just the artifacts and some of the materials that are in the museums throughout Canada and whether or not the Minister would look at pursuing to get those back up in the North so that residents can also participate and see the history of these artifacts and what helped shape the Northwest Territories.

Has he taken the process of doing that or even looking at getting some of these artifacts on loan? Specifically the one in Regina, I know there's a museum there that has some artifacts from historical events in the Northwest Territories. Has

he looked at pursuing those types of options? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. Years ago I did work at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and I do know that they have some artifacts, RCMP artifacts. They had a nice RCMP display in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre at the time. There also is an RCMP museum in Regina. So, I think it's just going to be a case of us trying to put everything together, and if it's talking to the folks at ECE and approaching the RCMP museum in Regina maybe to repatriate some of those artifacts back to the Northwest Territories, those conversations and actions will take place. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 772-17(5):
RESPONSE TO AUDITOR GENERAL'S
REPORT ON CORRECTIONS
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the NWT was witness to yet another scathing report from the office of the Auditor General and on March 5th the Member for Range Lake was put on notice by the Premier to a series of questions that are still left unanswered.

As I said last week with the Premier, the NWT Corrections Act clearly spells out consequences and processes defining a contravention of the act. With these breaches clearly pointed out by the Auditor General and the regulations, can I, for the second time now, get some answers to some of these questions by the Minister of Justice?

Without belabouring the long list of contraventions and violations of this act in the wake of the recent Auditor General's report, can the Minister indicate if the department will invoke its legal obligation and responsibilities for the administration of its correctional facilities pursuant to the Corrections Act? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've accepted all of those recommendations that were contained in the report. We acknowledge the results aren't as good as we would have liked them to be. The department has strong plans in place to address those issues. We also recognize that we need improvement in several areas of the corrections service. The OAG worked with staff to refine the direction and the areas where we needed to concentrate our efforts. As a result of the work currently underway, we'll have a stronger, more modernized corrections service focused on rehabilitation and public safety.

I think we need to take the report and the review and move forward in a positive direction, and I certainly intend to do just that. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: That's all fair and good, but clause 49(1) of the NWT Corrections Act states, "The Minister may appoint persons to investigate and inquire into any matter connected with or affecting the administration and operation of the corrections service or a correctional centre."

Can the Minister, given the seriousness of the circumstances, indicate to the House when such an investigation will take place? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I continue to work with the senior management at the department, the deputy minister. I take the concerns highlighted by the Auditor General's report very seriously, and as Members know, I've been here for going into my 12th year. I've had questions in the past regarding the corrections service here in the Northwest Territories. It is my objective here to make things better, to action these recommendations, and I certainly am intent on doing just that.

As far as the Member's questions and concerns, I will have that discussion with the deputy minister and we'll take things from there. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'd like to remind the Minister of Section 52 of the same act under Offences and Punishment reads, "A person other than an inmate who (a) contravenes this act or the regulations, or (b) conducts himself or herself in a matter that is detrimental to the good order and discipline of a correctional centre, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both."

Will the Minister of Justice authorize an independent investigation into whether charges should be laid under Section 52, for alleged contraventions of the act and its regulations? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: It's unclear to me against whom the charges would be pursued. I'm not sure if the Member could clarify just who we should be charging and under what sections of the Corrections Act. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no problem answering that question from the Minister. That's his duty, not mine.

As we heard, the department had the opportunity to take corrective action back in 2008, the department refused to do so. Now the Auditor General reminds us, now in 2015, we're still dealing with those very same issues. So any language we've heard from the department thus far that claims that if the audit

were done today, we'd have a very different process before us, does not hold any water.

One last time, the Minister has the power to appoint an investigation and hold those accountable for breeches under our act. Will he abide by our law? Yes or no. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Again, I will go back to the department. As far as an investigation goes, I believe there was a report just done by the Auditor General. It has 14 recommendations. We agree with all 14 recommendations. We are taking steps to make improvements in our corrections service, and we will continue on that path with our accountability framework.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 773-17(5):
CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA
HEALTH STATUS REPORT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For 61 years the Conference Board of Canada has been a think tank, providing research advice on economic trends and organizational performances on public issues.

Knowing what the Conference Board of Canada has given the Northwest Territories government, what is the Department of Health going to do with this D minus? Are they going to accept it or are they going to dispute the D minus given to this government? If they choose to dispute it, which specific areas are they disputing? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Health, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the intents or purposes of the Conference Board of Canada's How Canada Performs report is to provide decision-makers with tools and assessments they can use to help improve their system. We are going to take these recommendations that have been provided by the Conference Board of Canada to help improve the system. As I've already indicated to the Member and to the House, we are doing a number of things here to improve the results for Aboriginal people as well as all people in the Northwest Territories. We will continue to work with our Aboriginal partners, our Aboriginal health and community wellness division, to make these positive changes for all of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HAWKINS: I would kind of like to hear the answer whether the department either disputes the findings of the Conference Board of Canada or accepts them. If they dispute them, I think Northerners need to know what areas they are disputing and they also need to know the truth of the matter.

Does the department accept the fact that it has received a D minus, which is barely a pass? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As I've indicated previously, there are large disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people across Canada. The reported health outcomes in the report are partially due to the proportionately larger Aboriginal population that we have in the Northwest Territories. The health outcomes are measured using assessment tools for health outcomes, not health care systems. Mr. Speaker, we are not challenging these results, but we are taking them in the intended from which they were provided. They were to provide us with an opportunity and tools to help improve our system. We are addressing the recommendations. We are reviewing the recommendations to make improvements here for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister has just said they are not challenging the results, so let's get it on the record.

Does the Minister accept that the Government of the Northwest Territories Health Care Program has received a fair mark at a D minus? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We are not challenging the Conference Board of Canada's assessment of D minus for health outcomes here in the Northwest Territories. We acknowledge that the health outcomes for our Aboriginal people are less than our other residents in the Northwest Territories. This isn't something that we've been hiding. Members in the House have been very clear about the challenges they see in their communities. We've been working with Members and we will continue to work with the Aboriginal governments. We have made improvements such as the Aboriginal health and community wellness division which is working with all the communities in the Northwest Territories on individual community wellness plans to start addressing the root causes of some of these health outcomes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister says he's not challenging them. It sort of sounds like they are accepting the results the government has received of the barely passing mark of D minus. A D minus is a reflection of the department, its leadership and its management, and I would like to hear how this government is going to change this D minus mark and turn it into an action plan that delivers results specific to the areas targeted and identified by the Conference Board of Canada.

May I remind this House, this is an organization that has been in Canada for 61 years providing good

advice, non-partisan advice for guidance of governments like ours. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Member keeps talking about the health care system, but I do need to remind the Member that the Conference Board of Canada's report, How Canada Performs, is a snapshot at a point in time intended to provide governments with recommendations on how they can improve their systems by providing a snapshot. Health outcomes, once again, are measured using 10 indicators that recognize or evaluate health outcomes, not the health care system. We have to deal with the root causes and here in the Northwest Territories, and today I have clearly articulated that many, many actions and activities that we, as the Department of Health and Social Services, in cooperation with our partner departments, are working towards improving the health outcomes of residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 34-17(5): DECENTRALIZATION ANALYSIS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have Return to Written Question 34-17(5) asked by Ms. Bisaro to the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Finance, on February 16, 2015, regarding decentralization analysis.

I would like to provide the following information to the Members' questions.

1. Now that we are moving into phase III of decentralization, describe any and all analyses of the government's decentralization actions to date.

The decentralization initiative is now integrated into the business planning process. This means any new position being proposed by departments will be assessed to determine if the position should be decentralized. Departments will need to provide substantiation to the Financial Management Board if decentralization of the position is not feasible.

2. Of the 150 GNWT positions decentralized (per Premier McLeod in Hansard, February 10, 2015), advise the job title for each position, the original community for each position and the new community for each position.

A document providing the requested information will be tabled later today at the appropriate time.

3. Of the 150 GNWT positions decentralized, advise how many of the positions were vacant at the time the positions were transferred.

Of the 150 positions, 122 positions were vacant at the time of decentralization.

4. Of the 150 GNWT positions decentralized, advise how many of the positions were new PYs.

Of the 150 positions, 132 were new.

5. Of the 150 GNWT positions decentralized, advise how many incumbents chose to leave the employ of the GNWT.

Of the 150 positions, two incumbents left the GNWT.

6. Of the 150 GNWT positions decentralized, advise how many of the incumbents chose to leave the NWT and relocate elsewhere.

Of the 150 positions, one incumbent chose to leave the NWT.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Moses.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 42: AN ACT TO AMEND THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 42, An Act to Amend the Residential Tenancies Act, and wishes to report that Bill 42 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. Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 216-17(5): RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 23-17(5), DECENTRALIZATION ANALYSIS

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documented, entitled "Return to Written Question 23-17(5), Decentralization Analysis." Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 217-17(5): 2014 NWT SURVEY OF MINING EMPLOYEES OVERALL REPORT, DECEMBER 2014

TABLED DOCUMENT 218-17(5): REVIEW OF THE VENTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND THE CONTRIBUTION PROGRAMS OF THE NWT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION, MARCH 7, 2013

TABLED DOCUMENT 219-17(5): REVIEW OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION PROGRAMS, FINAL REPORT, NOVEMBER 4, 2013

TABLED DOCUMENT 220-17(5): PROGRAM REVIEW OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION, OCTOBER 20, 2014

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following four documents, entitled "2014 NWT Survey of Mining Employees Overall Report, December 2014;" "Review of the Venture Investment Program and the Contribution Programs of the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation, March 2013;" "Review of Business Development and Investment Corporation Programs, Final Report, November 2013;" and "Program Review of the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation, October 2014." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Moses.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 39-17(5): DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services investigate the feasibility of a domestic violence death review committee for the Northwest Territories;

And further, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Menicoche.

MOTION 40-17(5):
WELLNESS CENTRE AT
STANTON HOSPITAL

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services work with Aboriginal governments to establish a wellness centre at Stanton Territorial Hospital;

And further, that the Department of Health and Social Services incorporate a wellness centre into its plan for renewal of the Stanton Territorial Hospital;

And furthermore, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Motions

MOTION 38-17(5):
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON TRANSITION MATTERS,
CARRIED

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: WHEREAS, the role of Caucus is fundamental to the effectiveness of consensus government;

AND WHEREAS Caucus provides a venue for all Members to set broad strategic direction for a Legislative Assembly and discuss matters of widespread importance to the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the priorities established by a Caucus form the basis for government business plans and budgets prepared over the course of an Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Caucus of the 17th Legislative Assembly agreed upon the vision, goals and priorities for action under the theme of Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners;

AND WHEREAS transition to a new Assembly is an appropriate time for reporting on matters of ongoing action, discussion and consideration;

AND WHEREAS Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly may wish to consider how to build on the direction and deliberations of the 17th Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, pursuant to Rule 88(1), the Legislative Assembly hereby

establish a Special Committee on Transition Matters;

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be named to the special committee:

- the Member for Sahtu, Mr. Norman Yakeleya, Chair;
- the Member for Hay River North, Mr. Robert Bouchard;
- the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Alfred Moses;
- the Member for Kam Lake, Mr. David Ramsay;
- the Member for Range Lake, Mr. Daryl Dolynny; and
- the Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Tom Beaulieu.

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Special Committee on Transition Matters be established by the terms of reference, identified as Tabled Document 211-17(5).

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Beaulieu.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 49:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
DEH CHO BRIDGE ACT

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 49, An Act to Amend the Deh Cho Bridge Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 49, An Act to Amend the Deh Cho Bridge Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 12, Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act; Bill 36, Health and Social Services Professions Act; Committee Report 10-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 11-17(5), Standing Committee

on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 12: Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act; Committee Report 12-17(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of Bill 36: Health and Social Services Professions Act; Tabled Document 188-17(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016; Tabled Document 205-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015; Tabled Document 206-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015; and Tabled Document 207-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 10-17(5), I here authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider business before the House.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Good afternoon, committee. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We wish to continue with Tabled Document 188-17(5), NWT Main Estimates 2015-2016, with the Department of Public Works and then the Legislative Assembly. We would then like to consider Tabled Document 205-17(5), Tabled Document 206-17(5) and then Tabled Document 207-17(5). Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, committee. We'll commence after a brief recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. I'd like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, I would.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses to the table.

Minister Beaulieu, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. To my immediate right is the deputy Minister of Public Works and Services, Paul Guy. To my immediate left is director of corporate services, Steve Lewis, and to my far right, director, Technology Service Centre, Laurie Gault.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Members, we are on page 425, directorate, operations expenditure summary, \$11.874 million, for the Department of Public Works and Services.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 426, directorate, active positions, information item. Questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 429, for those just joining us, energy, operations expenditure summary, \$8.456 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just have some general questions for the Minister on the petroleum products division and the energy conservation department here. I want to ask the Minister, in the government's dealings, where are we receiving our fuel products from? Which country, which area, and how much are we receiving?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you very much, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The fuel originally comes from a refinery in Edmonton and then from there we truck it to Hay River and distribute it from... Pardon me. We rail it to Hay River and then from there we truck it to the area. Right now we are trucking it to all the communities that we're responsible for.

MR. YAKELEYA: I understand, also, there are different times of the year that you purchase the petroleum products. Specifically, about the diesel and gas and mostly looking at the smaller communities, so all our fuel for the smaller communities – and I'm just going to stay with my region – comes from the Edmonton refinery? Is that where we're getting our products coming from now?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, currently that is where we are buying the fuel that is going into the Sahtu.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Minister. I have two other themes here. The second one is, with the low prices of the fuel products, are we now into a position where we are now possibly saving money for our territorial government. I'm not too sure how long that will remain in the low bracket of pricing our fuel out. How are we doing comparing that to the biomass, the wood pellets, in regard to putting wood pellets into our communities and using that

product now? Because at one time the diesel prices were quite high and so we started to look at other means of energy into our communities, especially into my region where it's the capital of the oil in the Northwest Territories.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The Member is correct. As the House knows, we had lowered the fuel costs, using our Stabilization Fund, between 8 and 9 cents recently. Now that we're finishing our deliveries, we're seeing more savings and fully intend on lowering the fuel costs as we're finished deliveries into the communities. At this point, even with the lower cost of fuel – and it's a fairly substantial drop in the cost of fuel – biomass is still feasible. Maybe the payback would be extended a couple of years perhaps, but we were getting a fairly decent quick payback on biomass, so we still consider biomass to be a feasible way to heat.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly have to clear it with the Minister that we want to use the biomass, and I just want to make a point that some things in life are unpredictable. Biomass, certainly now, if you look at it, if the Minister is to do an analysis, it is costing us a little more than the fuel right now, I believe, and it's a different form of energy use in our small communities. I just wanted to raise that point there that hopefully one day we don't have to go outside the Northwest Territories to use fuel. Right now we're getting this from Edmonton.

On my last point, I want to raise the point that I appreciate the Northwest Territories Power Corporation putting in a solar power diesel plant in Colville Lake. Colville Lake also sits on a large field of natural gas. I'm not too sure why this government – maybe they have – looked at using the natural gas system to use it as an energy means for Colville Lake. It bewilders me as to we have these resources tapped into our region and they're sitting there stranded. Colville Lake is one example. This is from one of the constituents in the region that pointed this out to me. Hopefully, that will have some other type of consideration and thinking as to the energy use in the Sahtu. We have the natural gas fields there, we have the Canol shale play that's there, and we have the use of the Bear River hydro opportunity there for some use and we are looking at other ways to energize our homes and our businesses. I'm thinking here under this section.

Those are my comments. I appreciate the Minister working with the community and working with the region looking at ways that I'd like to continue to support the trappers and the hunters with their harvesting methods, their lifestyle on the land to see if there are ways we can reduce the cost of gas for community members for heating up their homes or for going out and practicing their way of life by harvesting wildlife and trapping and all the other good things that go along with being on the land.

Those are my comments. I'm not too sure if there's a question in there. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: In addition to biomass still being feasible, we know that it contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gases. Also, in future, there's a possibility that there may be an increase in the cost of the heating fuel. I know that the Member speaks about the traditional economy and that they need to have lower gas prices to pursue their hunting and trapping and so on.

So, our intent is this Friday in Colville Lake we will lower the cost of gasoline by 24 cents a litre. Also, in Fort Simpson right now, the Power Corp is installing solar panels at the NTPC generator, so they're going to be looking at solar power to augment electricity in the community of Fort Simpson.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very interesting, of course, to see this new division in the department, and maybe I could just start off by getting some clarity on how this department will work with others. I see an energy project-focused division that will lead the implementation of local renewable and alternative energy solutions in NWT communities. Obviously, we need community energy systems that would address the cost of living. That's probably one of the biggest things along with greenhouse gas emissions. So we're talking, to some extent, community energy systems. I have to wonder how this department will be working with the partners there, communities, say, for heating and perhaps the Power Corporation for power. Then, of course, with Environment and Natural Resource with their mandate on greenhouse gas emissions, particularly the Greenhouse Gas Strategy and the renewable aspect of renewable energy, forests and so on.

So just if I could get a little bit on this new mandate with respect to those aspects. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to have the deputy minister provide that information on the mandate of the new energy division.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The energy division in the Department of Public Works is a consolidation of the function and energy planning in ITI, the alternative energy staff and programs that were in ENR and the goal of the Energy Corporation around developing energy solutions.

We've organized the department into those key areas called energy solutions, energy planning and

policy and energy supply. The reason we've done that is to focus on a more project-oriented approach to energy, and also some of those integrated solutions that were mentioned in the question to be able to focus on energy solutions that may involve community energy systems, perhaps, or more combined heat and power, those types of things. As well, looking at things such as whether biomass can be used for generation, as well as space heating. Working closely, again, with ENR to support the Solar Strategy that's already in place as well as to work with partners, such as the Arctic Energy Alliance, and getting some of the messaging and some of the success stories out around the work that we're doing internally in Public Works and Services around alternative energy and energy efficiency. Some of the application of technology that we think can be deployed at the community level, both in community government buildings but also in the private sector buildings and in homeowners' buildings.

So we want to use this as an avenue to get some of that messaging and information out as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate those comments. The one thing I very rarely hear and I don't think I heard again, was working with industry, which was, in fact, where our biggest growing use of energy is happening, and we know that our Greenhouse Gas Strategy is absolutely useless in terms of providing guidance for them. We know that we're doing pretty good internally, but we're not doing very well with outreach. Of course, the biggest one is industry, which, as far as I can see, is getting nothing in terms of the requirements, guidelines, direction on how to be more efficient and switch to renewable energy. How will this department be improving in those areas?

MR. GUY: Thank you. I think as we move forward with the response to the Energy Charrette, implement some of those recommendations and direction that we're given through the Minister's Energy Coordinating Committee, we may have the opportunity to look at some of those things. I think there are some successes on the industry side where we can learn some things. We'll probably have a lot of things that we can share with industry, as well, particularly in the area of biomass and some of the alternative energy, some of the solar work that's going on. So I think there are some opportunities going forward through this division to start to look at some of those things. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I appreciate that. So, I would ask the Minister if he would indeed commit to, for example, approaching Diavik to learn about their wind project and how it might be considered in

our communities, or some other model that they would recommend and how we can work with industry to establish standards that they must meet so that this isn't a one-off thing that comes in towards the end of the life of a project. It is a requirement from the beginning, as the Diavik wind expert has recommended, and some of the other things that the deputy minister recommended, I appreciate sharing and supporting industry, but also putting in place some requirements for industry to participate knowing what we do about the status of climate change and the impacts to our people. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The department would have no problem with meeting with Diavik on their programs or energy-efficient programs. The decision on what type of stipulations that we put on industry in as far as energy conservation will be a government decision, not Public Works and Services' decision. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Could I get the Minister to agree that it is now the lead, Public Works and Services is now the lead in our Energy Policy, as per their description, activity description and that this would be appropriate for them to take on?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Certainly, we would take the lead in the initiative. Again, we would work with other departments that are involved in the industry. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I would hope so. Thank you. Hopefully, we've learned that we have to get all departments working together, but I appreciate this Minister taking the lead. I have taken the opportunity to discuss wind with Diavik. The experts there say wind, diesel and batteries are cookie cutter now. They are not experimental. We are way behind the eight ball on this. The Power Corp has not touched wind in 40 years. I'm very happy to see the work that's being done in Colville Lake with this model because this model can work with solar as well. So we are doing solar in Colville, which is appropriate; they don't have the wind power. We have lots of communities that are very, very expensive where wind, in combination with battery storage and diesel, are possible.

Will the Minister be starting to look at these alternatives and hopefully putting some of those on the table very soon, or perhaps passing this on as a highlighted priority to the 18th Assembly to consider? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: That would be a big part of the mandate of the energy division within Public Works and Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Energy, operations expenditure summary. Mr. Bromley, sorry.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just had one other area I wanted to explore. The science is showing that because of the fugitive, it's called, and actual emissions of natural gas development from unconventional sources, that's through exploration, development, decommissioning and transport, and conversion of natural gas into LNG and back and loading it onto trucks, unloading it from trucks and so on, makes LNG from unconventional sources as bad as coal in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. So I see that there's a commitment here or a mandate for examining the potential for liquefied natural gas to provide a cleaner... That's the last line in the activity description, "a cleaner and less expensive alternative to the use of imported diesel fuel." Now, you see, natural gas is as bad as coal when it's LNG from unconventional sources. That means it's much dirtier than imported diesel fuel. So, would the Minister follow this up during the life of this Assembly and determine exactly what the situation is and report back to this House in an objective form on whether the science indicates that's true? This is based on shorter distances of transport than we have in the Northwest Territories, much easier and better conditions for transfer without running into problems and losing more fugitive emissions to the atmosphere. So, would the Minister take that on?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. We could look at the information, the science behind the production of liquefied natural gas, as a government and report back to the House on our findings.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate that from the Minister and I will look at the Hansard to see the specifics of that request because there are some areas where that wouldn't apply, like conventional sources. I appreciate the Minister's commitment. I guess I'm out of time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Energy, operations expenditure summary, \$8.456 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Page 430, energy, grants, contributions and transfers, total grants and contributions, \$4.488 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I know in the community energy systems that we've looked at, we've had a couple of feasibility projects done in communities such as Lutselk'e and Whati, perhaps others, I think maybe Deline, where things are technically feasible but they're very costly to do. We are in a point, as we've heard from the Minister, where fossil fuel prices are down right now. This was highlighted by the Diavik expert on wind. You see this with successful businesses, when prices drop and we know it's going to be so likely for a period of time, maybe a year or two or three, who knows, they recognize it's a real opportunity. I know this department has realized this for building up their fuel sources for communities and so on, so they are moving on this. What are we doing to recognize this opportunity in terms of our community energy systems that have been very expensive under the sort of prices we've had in the past for fossil fuels, which would be used in the building of those? Is the department realizing this situation is an opportunity to perhaps bring some of these projects forward in a more affordable way, given this window of opportunity that \$50 oil has provided us? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Deputy Minister Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. In terms of community energy systems, there has been some work done. There are some small-scale ones out there that we are aware of and we have participated in a couple. There is one in Behchoko that we're part of. We have a number of small district heat systems throughout our own portfolio. We have a small one here in Yellowknife. We have the system in Fort Simpson. We also have a system that's working very well in Hay River. We also have a system in Fort Smith where we provide heat to the community government. I think as the systems and technologies become more common place, we will see other opportunities out there to work with other communities that are interested in doing this. Also, in Fort McPherson, there is a system there that we are participating in. So we see that part of the work we'll be doing going forward. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that. I think it's a real opportunity for projects such as Lutselk'e and Whati who would provide both the power and the heating requirements for the community if it became affordable under the reduced fossil fuel prices we are enjoying currently.

Just on the Yellowknife liquefied natural gas plan feasibility study, this seems a bit bizarre to me, but again, I would ask the Minister perhaps include his

earlier commitment to examine what the greenhouse gas emissions are for that liquid natural gas as part of that feasibility study. It would be a natural addition to that to make sure we are achieving all of our government roles. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. We agreed to that, that we would look at the greenhouse gas emissions outlook for natural gas. We would look at all of the alternative energy systems, including biomass as well.

MR. BROMLEY: The one other I had was I was out with Premier McLeod when we erected the wind monitoring pole or tower out at Giant Mine. That's been two or three years ago now. I suspect it's been three years ago. Do we know what the findings have been there and do we have the wind resources for wind generation in the capital city? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: That is one of the things that, as a division, starting on April 1st, we will be following up on very soon into the creation of that division.

MR. BROMLEY: Getting ahead of myself, I guess. That's all I had. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Energy, grants, contributions and transfers, total grants and contributions, \$4.488 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Energy, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 435, Technology Service Centre, operations expenditure summary, \$1.535 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just had one question here. I know there's so much expertise in this division, and I know the Minister is aware that we're putting a Mackenzie Valley fibre optic line that's meant to enhance the access to the Internet and opportunities for education and health and so on services. I wonder if I can get the perspective of this department.

First of all, has the department looked at that project? Are they providing advice on that project?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will have the director, Laurie Gault, respond to the Member.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Ms. Gault.

MS. GAULT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, TSC had input into the planning process and some of the technical discussions. Currently it's with the Department of Finance working through the implementation stage. We anticipate being brought back into conversation once we start to see what the connectivity needs of the communities that are coming on board to the fibre link are, and that way we'll be able to leverage opportunities both with our existing network and the new facilities.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Gault. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Just on that, and I appreciate that information, we want to be maximizing the benefits to the individuals in our communities who would be accessing this – I know the Minister supports that – for their own education, health and certainly economic development opportunities. As currently planned, are we using the best way of getting this service to each home in the communities that will be serviced by the fibre optic line? I understand that that is typically getting a fibre optic line right to the homes, but I don't have the technical expertise to carry it beyond that. Has that been the advice and would that be the advice of the department?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to have the director, Laurie Gault, respond to that, and perhaps if the Minister of Finance could add to the response, then that would be good as well.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Ms. Gault.

MS. GAULT: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is actually both a business as well as a technical conversation, particularly that last mile piece, both dependent upon the demand in the local community and the facilities that are already there as well as what would be required from provisioning from the fibre optics. I know Finance has been engaging the communities with what the requirements are, the type of services they would like to promote, and truly that volume and demand and capacity will need to be that joint conversation between how we best connect to those last miles and literally right to the front door.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Gault. Does the Finance Minister have anything he'd like to add to those comments? Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. The intention is to have a clear point of presence in all the communities affected and benefitting from the fibre optic line and then the business opportunity will kick in in the communities either through a service provider from somewhere,

or in cases like Deline where there's an interest in the community to provide all those services themselves and create a business that would hook up all the telecommunication and Internet requirements and run them the same as is done in larger communities. We see this is a business opportunity at the community level with cable, with cell service, with hooking up all the operational requirements from businesses and governments.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think this is where obviously there is a matter of scale here for the smaller communities. They're not going to have the volume to be able to provide the same services and so there's a real opportunity for government to plug in there and provide the subsidy needed. This is a cost recovery project for the government, and of course we will be enjoying some financial benefits from it, so it's a good opportunity for us to make sure that the very best services can be provided and make even the smallest communities competitive and give them an advantage for participation in the larger economy. That's just a comment. I guess I'll leave it at that. I appreciate the responses I've heard.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Technology Service Centre, operations expenditure summary, \$1.535 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Technology Service Centre, chargeback, information item. Questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Technology Service Centre, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Members. Turning to page 438, Public Stores Revolving Fund, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Petroleum Products Revolving Fund, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Petroleum Products Revolving Fund, active positions, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Lease commitments, information item. Any questions? Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just looking at the projections for the next couple years

here, I see next year we have scheduled only \$4,000. The reason is that lease is coming to an end. What are the department's plans to move forward for the next 20 years? Is it going to work with the community for another lease on possibly a new building?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is referring to the very first item in Aklavik where there is only a future payment of \$4,000. Essentially, that would either go up for renewal or we would go out to try to secure more office space. But likely, at this point, it would be us looking for a renewal on that office space.

MR. BLAKE: I should have identified which community I was talking about. Also, under the same item, under Fort McPherson, that payment, as well, it's come to its end. What are the plans for that agreement as well?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: That item is, again, up for renewal and we are working with the community. My understanding is that there is going to be a new building and we have agreed that we would be moving into the new building.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Lease commitments, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Work performed on behalf of others, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Members, could you please return to page 417. Public Works and Services, department total, \$120.750 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Do Members agree that this concludes the consideration of main estimates for the Department of Public Works and Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu, and thank you to your officials for joining us here today. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

I would like to ask Speaker Jacobson if he would please provide his opening remarks for consideration of the budget for the Legislative Assembly. Speaker Jacobson.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to present the 2015-2016 estimates for the Legislative Assembly. I would like

to thank the members of the Board of Management for their assistance and input on this budget.

The Assembly is seeking an expenditure appropriation of \$21.175 million. This represents an increase of \$2.186 million, or 11.5 percent, from the 2014-2015 Main Estimates of \$18.99 million.

While this is a significant increase from the 2014-2015 operations budget, additional funding is something that we need every four years in order to hold the next territorial election and for preparing and moving on to the next Assembly.

I can assure Members that these estimates continue to support the objective of limiting expenditure growth in order to sustain the long-term fiscal framework of our government.

Madam Chair, we have entered the final year of the 17th Assembly and, for my office, this is the last operations budget for this Assembly.

During this Assembly we have appointed and supported the Electoral Boundaries Commission and the Independent Commission to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits.

In 2013 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of this great building and burned the mortgage papers in recognition of the Assembly assuming ownership.

It has also been a time of change and improvement in how we deliver services to our Members and manage the operations of the Assembly. Authority for the administration of Ministers' benefits was transferred to the Assembly at the beginning of this Assembly, and we also moved to an in-house security model to ensure consistent and quality services and the safety of all.

We also undertook projects to make our building more accessible, consulting with the NWT Disabilities Council and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

The time has now come to begin preparations for the transition to the 18th Assembly.

This will include providing the funding needed by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer to undertake the next territorial General Election. I would note that the budget proposed for the 2015 General Election has increased only slightly from the budget that was approved for the 2011 General Election.

This coming fiscal year we are also planning on improvements to how we accommodate and support several of our statutory offices and the important work that they do.

We are proposing a move to a shared-services model for the Languages Commissioner, Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner and Human Rights Adjudication Panel. This model will see their respective offices existing together in a single storefront location and being supported by dedicated and qualified staff.

In closing, I want to thank all Members, my colleagues on the Board of Management and the Assembly staff for their contributions and their efforts in working towards the efficient operations and delivery of quality services for the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Madam Chair. This concludes my opening remarks. I am pleased to respond to any questions Members may have.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Speaker Jacobson. At this time I'll ask the Speaker if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Speaker Jacobson. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses to the table.

Speaker Jacobson, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: To my left I have Mr. Darrin Ouellette, director of corporate services, and to my right I have the Clerk of the Assembly, Mr. Tim Mercer.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Speaker Jacobson. General comments. Any general comments on the budget of the Legislative Assembly? Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a general comment and I guess I'd call it a question. What is the change in costs? We've switched security over to an internal mechanism as opposed to a contract fee. What was the previous cost and what is the estimated cost now?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Speaker Jacobson.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll ask Mr. Ouellette.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Ouellette.

MR. OUELLETTE: Thank you, Madam Chair. We changed over in 2012 and at the time the contract services for security were valued at approximately \$250,000/\$260,000 per year. The move to an in-house model increased slightly because of the costs that were associated with it. They came up to about \$300,000 per year.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ouellette. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Is the change in cost just strictly focusing on the benefits, or has there

been any change in the format of how security has been provided?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Speaker Jacobson.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. No, just the better services, I guess, for our style of security for the Members and I guess for the whole building. I guess it's more accurate. Having our own security services is a lot better than an outside source.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Speaker Jacobson. Nothing further, Mr. Hawkins? Any further general comments? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just referring to the Speaker's notes here, I see we are taking advantage of some efficiencies. I'm happy to see our General Election costs are anticipated to be only slightly larger than four years ago.

The 11.5 percent increase is obviously quite a bit compared to the departments, but I know there could be some reasons for that. I see about \$860,000 of that is for the office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the election, so that's 40 percent of that. I'm just wondering if there are any comments on what the rest of that is.

One other thing. I appreciated the Speaker's comments on the projects to make our building more accessible for people with disabilities and the consultation with the Disabilities Council and Institute for the Blind. How are we doing on that front? Are we there? Is there more work to be done? I'd just like to keep my finger on that pulse, and I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Speaker Jacobson.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just for the first question regarding the electoral officer and an increase of \$871,000 budget for the upcoming General Election, the increase is for hiring and training of temporary election staff and the remainder of the increase was the travel, contracting, materials and supplies and expenses. We are just waiting on signage for a few areas in the building, and we're pretty close to being done for the persons with disabilities.

MR. BROMLEY: Is that work anticipated to be completed during the life of this fiscal year, so it doesn't need to be part of next fiscal year's project? Thank you.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: It would be in this next fiscal year to complete.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Speaker Jacobson. Next for general comments I have Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to welcome the Speaker and the delegation here today. I'm encouraged by what I'm hearing from the opening comments by the Speaker that they're proposing kind of a single window storefront. I also believe there are many synergies in grouping services together into one office.

Can I get a little bit more information as to if we anticipate to see this in the upcoming year? Is there a proposed move? Is there a timeline for this opportunity? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Speaker Jacobson.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. This year it will be moving all the Commissioners into the Laing Building where the transport drivers have their licensing area. It will be done in August.

MR. DOLYNNY: I am encouraged to hear that. I think it's a very good move on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to do that, to provide that single window design.

Do we know what that move will cost the Legislative Assembly to do, or is there a savings by design? Thank you.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Madam Chair, I will let Mr. Ouellette take that question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Ouellette.

MR. OUELLETTE: Thank you, Madam Chair. When we look at the three statutory offices that are going to be moving in together there and we look at the budgets that they've had over the past fiscal year, there will be some internal reallocation amongst those budgets, but all together there will be about a \$20,000 increase in the operating budget collectively for those three offices. Some of the initial output will cost \$160,000 to do the office renovations to prepare that space for those three statutory offices, but we anticipate over time there will be some cost savings achieved because it is a government-owned office building and we won't be paying any lease payments for those.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ouellette. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, are these costs reflected in this operating budget? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: Yes.

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, not to pre-empt the detail of the budget, but when we look at statutory officers and operations expenditure summary, there is somewhat of a large decrease, albeit we also see an increase in the Information and Privacy Commissioner which I believe is going to full time.

But we're spending roughly \$160,000 less this year than last year and yet we're hearing that we're having to make an investment into this new storefront location. Maybe I can get some direction. Where are these expenditures for this so-called dedication to this single storefront location? Where is it in the budget? Thank you.

HON. JACKIE JACOBSON: I'll let Mr. Ouellette take that one. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Mr. Ouellette.

MR. OUELLETTE: Thank you, Madam Chair. When we look under the Languages Commissioner, under the detail, previously last year she had an operations budget of \$250,000. That was when the Languages Commissioner was from the Inuvik region. That's decreased to \$173,000 because of the move to the Yellowknife area, and there was also a re-profiling of one of the staff positions. The Information and Privacy Commissioner, previously the budget for that was \$62,000 a year. That was because of the approach that was used for the Information and Privacy Commissioner. It was an as required per hour fee base and it's now moved to a fixed rate annually. There's also been an operations budget that has been provided for that particular stat office.

The Human Rights Adjudication Panel has essentially stayed the same budget. It hasn't moved from the \$210,000 per year. It could be challenging just to put a number on that one because it is case dependent for that particular statutory office. But one of the things that we'll be working with is that they will be sharing staffing resources. Last year the Human Rights Adjudication Panel was providing a charge for that particular service for us.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ouellette. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Madam Chair, I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Any further general comments on the budget of the Legislative Assembly?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Members. Would you please stand down page 5? We will return to it. Page 6, revenue summary, information item. Are there any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Active position summary, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Expenditures on behalf of Members, operations expenditure summary, \$8.999 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The biggest increase in the budget for the Legislative Assembly is the compensation and benefits, \$1 million roughly. Could I get just some explanation of what this is about? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Mercer.

MR. MERCER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Two primary reasons for that, one is the payment of a transition allowance to an expected six Members who we are budgeting for and may not be returning. The second one is a reflection in our pension accounting for the fact that we have adopted Canadian, as opposed to American, mortality tables, which has resulted in an increase to the accounting treatment for the MLA pension plans. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Mercer. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The second one, I'm not astute enough to understand or have the context to understand that one, but I'll explore that one maybe out of the House. Thank you for that response.

I also see the increase of operating expenses, and perhaps that's included in the response I got, but operating expenses of about \$600,000 and the Member's pension expenses are about \$400,000. I think that was part of the explanation I just heard. But the first one, are there some details I could have on that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Ouellette.

MR. OUELLETTE: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's actually a combination of a number of expenses. As Mr. Mercer had mentioned, one of them was due to a pension expense increase, which is sort of a non-cash expense that has to be provided on the books of the Assembly according to the Public Accounting Standards for pensions. Then we also have, I guess, cost of living increases that are calculated in there on an annual rate. Then we also had some transition costs for moving to the next Assembly. Mr. Mercer mentioned that there were transition allowances. We make some assumptions in terms of how many Members will be outgoing, how many new Members will be incoming, and for the new incoming Members we also have to account for new office expenditures and that sort of thing.

There are also a couple of other allowances in there, retraining allowances that we make some assumptions on in terms of how many of those allowances we'll have to budget for in the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ouellette. That's everything. Are there any further questions on expenditures on behalf of

Members, operations expenditure summary, \$8.999 million?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, operations expenditure summary, \$1.65 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, active positions, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Office of the Clerk, operations expenditure summary, \$8.409 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to check on that contract service, the slight increase over last year's. I'm just wondering if there are details available for that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Mercer.

MR. MERCER: Madam Chair, the majority of that increase in contract services is as a result of renovations required to the first floor of the Laing Building to accommodate the three new statutory officers.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Mercer. Office of the Clerk, operations expenditure summary, \$8.409 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Madam Chair, I just want to let the Speaker know and also the Office of the Clerk that I appreciate the work that their staff do to accommodate us during our busy work as MLAs. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Office of the Clerk, operations expenditure summary, \$8.409 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Office of the Clerk, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Office of the Speaker, operations expenditure summary, \$356,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Office of the Speaker, grants, contributions and transfers.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Office of the Speaker, active positions, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Statutory offices, operations expenditure summary, \$1.761 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 24, statutory offices, grants, contributions and transfers, contributions, \$250,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Statutory offices, active positions, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. No questions. Returning to page 5, Legislative Assembly, total department, \$21.175 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you, committee. Do you agree that consideration of the main estimates for the Legislative Assembly are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 102-17(5):
CONCURRENCE OF TD 188-17(5),
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
MAIN ESTIMATES, 2015-2016,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 188-17(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 188-17(5) be reported and recommended for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. I needed to deal with the presenters and the staff here at the table before we went to that motion. I would like to thank Speaker Jacobson, Clerk Mercer and Mr. Ouellette for your attendance here today to help us look over the budget of the Legislative Assembly. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Thank you. I will go to Ms. Bisaro's motion and I will wait until the Pages have circulated the motion and the motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. As agreed earlier, we're going to be going to Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 5, 2014-2015. With that, I will turn it over to the Minister responsible, Minister Miltenberger, for opening comments.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 5, 2014-2015. This document provides for a net increase of \$4.133 million to the 2014-15 capital budget.

The most significant items in this supplementary estimates are:

1. \$2.0 million for the Department of Health and Social Services to advance the cash flow of the Hay River Health Centre Project because construction is ahead of schedule;
2. a total of \$1.6 million for the Department of Transportation for the costs associated with the Trout Lake Airport Relocation Project, permafrost research along sections of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway, and funding for planning activities on new highway corridors.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring into the House?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Minister Miltenberger, if you would be kind enough to introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mike Aumond, deputy minister; and I have Sandy Kalgutkar, deputy secretary to the FMB. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Aumond, Mr. Kalgutkar, welcome back to the House. Committee, general comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Is committee prepared to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I would like to turn your attention to page 5 of the supplementary appropriation. Education, Culture and Employment, infrastructure, operations

expenditure summary, education and culture, not previously authorized, negative \$400,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$400,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health services programs, not previously authorized, \$2 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$2 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$700,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$700,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 8, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$858,000. Highways, not previously authorized, \$750,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.608 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 9, Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$60,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$60,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 10, Lands, capital investment expenditures, operations, not previously authorized, \$165,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$165,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that consideration of Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015, is now concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 103-17(5):
 CONCURRENCE OF TD 205-17(5),
 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
 (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
 NO. 5, 2014-2015,
 CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 205-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 5, 2014-2015, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 205-17(5) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Moving on, committee, we're going to Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015. Again, with that, I'll turn to the Minister responsible for opening comments. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015. This document outlines an increase of \$13.259 million in operations expenditures for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, of which \$3.81 million is offset by revenues.

Excluding the 2014-15 forest fire season and the impacts of low water on the Snare Hydro System, the GNWT was able to limit supplementary expenditures to \$10.9 million or \$9.1 million below the supplementary reserve budget of \$20 million for 2014-15.

The more significant items included in the supplementary estimates are:

1. A total of \$11.1 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for funding for increased program costs, including:
 - \$4.7 million for costs related to adults and children in care in southern facilities;
 - \$3 million for costs associated with providing insured services to non-NWT residents, which will be fully recovered from other jurisdictions;
 - \$1.9 million for costs associated with NWT residents beings provided insured services in other jurisdictions;
 - \$1.3 million for costs associated with the pension plan of the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority.

2. \$2 million for the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources for the additional costs incurred due to the increased fire suppression effort required during the extreme 2014-15 forest fire season.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. When you have a chance, we'll get a chance to introduce your witnesses that are already at the counter.

Again, Minister Miltenberger, if you would be kind enough to introduce your witnesses to the House.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deputy Minister Mike Aumond and deputy secretary to the FMB, Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Thank you, Mr. Aumond and Mr. Kalgutkar for residing. Committee, general comments. Is committee prepared to go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015. Legislative Assembly, operations expenditure summary, expenditures on behalf of Members, not previously authorized, \$577,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$577,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 4, Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$1.472 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.472 million. Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can I get a little more detail on this expenditure here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. With that, we'll go to Mr. Aumond.

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This expenditure is a transfer of funding from Public Works and Services to the NWT Housing Corporation to commence with the demolition of the housing units in Inuvik known as the Blueberry Patch. The units were originally surplus and Public Works and Services, on behalf of the government, surplus those assets, and the Housing Corporation expects interest in acquiring the land that those units reside on for future use. On that basis, the Department of Public Works and Services transferred some funding that it had, which was to the Housing Corporation for those purposes.

MR. BOUCHARD: I guess the question is Public Works had the demolition budgeted in this amount, or did they have this in their budget for other things

and this is a surplus? If I can get detail where Public Works is finding \$1.4 million.

MR. AUMOND: Public Works and Services originally had received money to undertake the demolition of Sir Alexander Mackenzie or SAM School in Inuvik and Samuel Hearne Secondary School starting in 2012-13. Samuel Hearne Secondary School has been demolished and SAM School is scheduled to be completed at the end of the '14-15 fiscal year. PWS will have a surplus of approximately \$900,000 for SAMS that will otherwise lapse on March 31, 2015, and also has retained \$572,000 of O and M money that it had had for those assets while they were still being maintained, which is going to be transferred, which was originally approved for Samuel Hearne Secondary and SAM School in the base budget. That funding is going to sunset in '16-17, so that money is proposed to be transferred over to the Housing Corporation to undertake the demolition of the Blueberry Patch.

MR. BOUCHARD: The \$900,000 from SAMS demolition was not used so this is where we're finding the money from, I guess. Is that from this year, '14-15, or is that from a previous year?

MR. AUMOND: The '14-15 fiscal year. This fiscal year.

MR. BOUCHARD: I'm just wondering: obviously, the Department of Public Works and Services has been able to scramble together the money to do this and I'm not debating the merit of the demolition of this unit. I guess the question is where the money is coming from and how many other departments do we know of that have this type of a surplus sitting waiting for a project that they can transfer to any department or use for themselves. I guess, where are the checks and balances as far as when there is money that hasn't been accounted for? Where would we see that in a reporting process?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This process is the final check and balance. We only have one major infrastructure department, which is Public Works and Services. We have another infrastructure department focused on housing, which is the Housing Corporation. Other than that, everybody else has other business. This type of situation has occurred and between the two infrastructure departments. We've managed to come up with the money to take care of this much needed demolition and put the land back into use.

MR. BOUCHARD: I guess my question is who decided that this project was a priority with the extra \$900,000 that was lapsed over from Public Works and Services?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: It came through to FMB. This demolition has been a priority for quite a number of years. It's just that we haven't had the funds to take care of the project and, in fact, demolish the property and put it back into use. With the funds identified by the deputy minister, we were able to do that. Anybody that has been to Inuvik would see what an eyesore it was right in the heart of the community, and it's a very significant issue to get out of the way after all these years.

MR. BOUCHARD: Like I indicated, I don't have a problem with the demolition in Inuvik. I'm just wondering what other projects were deferred. What list do we have of this type of project that we selected from and Inuvik was chosen? Were there any other projects that were high on the Public Works and Services list to spend that \$900,000?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is no list as the Member is suggesting. This was brought forward as a long outstanding issue where there were finally funds able to be put to use.

MR. BOUCHARD: No further questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Committee, we're on page 4, Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$1.472 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.472 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 5, Public Works and Services, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, negative \$1.472 million. Total department not previously authorized, negative \$1.472 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 6, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, program delivery support, not previously authorized. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of questions here. The first one is the first line item, the funding for increased costs related to Hay River Health and Social Services Authority Pension Plan. This is an item which I think has appeared every year since I've been here, or at least for the last several years.

Can I get an explanation as to whether this is something that is going to continue on into the future until we presumably bring those staff in under the GNWT public service, or is this an amount and is this amount that is going to be similar for the years following, or is this kind of a one-time cost? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be an ongoing cost until the determination is made to put the funds necessary to bring this contingent of staff into the public service in the territorial government. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister. I don't remember what the total amount would be that we have put into the pension plan for the Hay River Health and Services Authority, but I would think it's many, many millions of dollars.

How close are we to bringing the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority in under our GNWT public service so we can bite the bullet once and for all, pay what we need to pay to get their pension plan in, similar to superannuation, and then have them as our employees going forward? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that response, I believe we're going to be going to Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Moving forward with health transformation, we want to bring the Hay River Health and Social Services into the public service. The Department of Health and the Department of Human Resources have been given the mandate by Cabinet to enter into negotiations with the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority, the UNW as well as superann to figure out how we can move forward with that to actually make that happen, recognizing the potential costs, articulating, determining what those costs might be so that we can bring it back to the House. The work is beginning this year. We'll have a better sense of the costs later this year, hopefully, to begin to have those discussions with committee.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to Minister Abernethy. Is it likely that we are going to see this switch executed in the '15-16 budget year? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, the timeline is we need to pass the legislation. The legislation is before committee. Committee is reviewing that legislation. Should that legislation pass, then we have a go live date of April 1, 2016. Our hope would be that we would be able to facilitate this change for that time, but we recognize that it may take a little bit longer to work through all the challenges with superann and union, but our goal is to look at April 1, 2016. So it would not be the 2015-16 fiscal year.

MS. BISARO: Thanks again to the Minister. That's a great target date. I certainly hope that it can be met.

My other question on this page has to do with the next line item, transfer of funding from Education, Culture and Employment to support the expansion

of the Healthy Family Program. I'm certainly in support of expanding the Healthy Family Program, but I'm trying to understand where the money is coming from in Education that's going to be transferred to the Healthy Family Program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Mr. Kalgutkar.

MR. KALGUTKAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The program that the money will be transferred from is the Child and Family Resource Program that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment got as part of the \$1.25 million they got as part of their Early Childhood Development Initiative. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to Mr. Kalgutkar for that answer. The Child and Family Resource Program I thought was a fairly successful one, so does that suggest that it's not a successful program and that it's being scaled back? Thank you.

MR. KALGUTKAR: The department did do a review of the program and it was felt at the time that the best maximum benefit of this funding could be achieved if it transferred the money to the Department of Health and Social Services to achieve more benefit. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks. I'll try the question a different way. Is the Child and Family Resource Centre Program going to be in operation in the '15-16 budget year? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would assume yes, but I would ask the Minister of Education if he could clarify that fact. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Part of the reason why we're transferring the funding to the Healthy Family Program has always been part of our discussion when we went through the Child and Family Resource Program that was initiated and has been successful to date. It was of the opinion that we need to put money into the programming, so that's where the Healthy Family Initiative is earmarked. We are transferring, so it is in the works. Health and Social Services has always been our partner on this approach. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister. So, I have to ask the question again. Is the Child and Family Resource Program going to be operational in '15-16? The Minister said that it's a successful program, so if it's successful, why are

we taking money out of that program and putting it into another one? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chair, the pilot project we have done with Child and Family Resource Program into the communities, again, has been successful and this is building on that. Obviously, the Child and Family Resource Program is part of the Early Childhood Framework, the 10-year action plan and developing a 10-year framework and then a three-year action plan geared towards that. It is a continuation of the programming. This is one of the areas that Health and Social Services has been a partner. We are allocating healthy family programming based on the needs of the communities that have been identified. With our department, child and family resource programming continues within my department. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Chair, if I'm hearing this rightly, so the Child and Family Resource Program, I am presuming the two pilots will continue as they did but there will not be any expansion. Can I get confirmation that the pilot programs will continue and that there will be no expansion of the Child and Family Resource Program in '15-16? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We'll go to Minister Miltenberger

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Committee, continuing on questions on this activity, I have Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I'll have one question about the Hay River Health and Social Services Pension Plan. My colleague was asking about rolling them into the GNWT. I guess the Department of Health is working on this. Do we have knowledge about what other departments, such as Finance, would be involved in the assessment of this, or are we using outside pension people to give us an estimate on what the cost will be?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finance and Health will be working together on this issue. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: I will leave that point for now. My next question is adult and child care in the southern facilities, it seems we have this on an annual basis. I know it's been talked about in the House, as well, but this is a very expensive cost to the GNWT. I am wondering what we are doing to repatriate some of these individuals or find specialists to come to the Northwest Territories so we can repatriate these individuals.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There are regular reviews done of the clients down south,

both adults and children. The significant challenge is the multiple presenting problems, very, very complex, in many cases, presenting problems that require constant 24/7 supervision. There is such a wide array of special needs and requirements that it would be impossible, in the estimation of the government, to be able to bring back a facility worth 10 or 15 of these folks all with a wide array of problems, to try to put them all in one facility. When they are placed down south, we have the ability to be able to go and place them in specific facilities and have the critical mass and economies of scale to deal with the specific presenting problems that an individual child or adult may have. Mr. Chair, with your indulgence, I would ask the Minister if he would like to add anything further in terms of rationale.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have too much to add. These are very similar questions that were asked during oral questions last week by the other Member for Hay River, Jane Groenewegen. We do an assessment of an individual biannually, so two times a year we'll do individual assessments to determine if there is an opportunity to bring them back and what the current status is. Where we have an opportunity to repatriate, we do.

I also had an opportunity, during the previous budget session, to indicate that we are going to have our territorial services take a look at all the individuals down south to see if there is any opportunity to repatriate a block of individuals with like conditions. Unfortunately, as Minister Miltenberger said, we did that review and we didn't find a group of individuals with like conditions that we could bring back and put in a territorial facility, but we will do that review every couple of years because the realities could change.

Where we stand today is there isn't a block of individuals we can repatriate as a result of like conditions. We continue to do the biannual review of individuals and where we can repatriate, we do. These individuals have pretty complex conditions requiring extensive care and we haven't been able to repatriate many of them at this point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My only other question would be with these individuals, when we assess them... I'm looking for residency. If they are in a facility that is in the South for an extended period of time, do they ever become residents of that jurisdiction? That's the main question. Do they stay NWT residents for the entire stay there? They could be there for life. We continue to pay from the NWT, but really they are residents of the jurisdiction. Would they be

somehow put into a queue for that jurisdiction? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, there have been cases where it's been a permanent placement where over time they become... In one case I can recollect in my time, they became a resident of Ontario. It depends on the length of the stay, but most jurisdictions now you have to have an understanding that this is a very specialized service that's being purchased for our citizens, our residents. On that basis, you enter into those agreements. Otherwise it would be problematic for the receiving jurisdictions in terms of pressure on their system over time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Continuing on with questions on Health and Social Services, I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to follow up on my colleague's questions and he actually asked most of the questions I had. Would the Minister know how many adults and children we have in care and what the total costs are that this amount is supplementing?

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

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have the numbers for the number of adults or children, but I know for adults the total projected cost in 2014-15 is about \$14.42 million. The total expenses for children in 2014-15 are projected to be \$7.86 million.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks for that response. We're looking at \$27 million, Mr. Chair. I think it gets to the point in terms of investing in the personnel, the staff and whatnot in a facility in the North, this would be a very significant contribution to employment in the North as these amounts go up. I'm not hearing opportunities for it to go down. I would say it may be worth, given that we get tax returns and so on, at some point figuring out where does it become feasible to entertain a northern facility even with all the staff involved and so on. So, I just throw that out. I heard your discussion and I heard those responses. I appreciate the Department of Health and Social Services is always looking at this. I would say look at it with the big picture on what benefits and real costs and returns we would get from having a facility that could help out here in the North. I myself had a constituent returned from the South to a facility in Hay River, which has eased things for the family in my constituency. I know there is also the human side to this, of course. I will leave it at that.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Minister pointed out, we review this on an ongoing basis. What has also been helpful in the past, harkening back to my time as Health Minister, we went down a number of times with the Social Programs committee and toured the facilities. When you walk on the ground and go into the facilities and meet the clients, you get a very, very stark understanding of the challenges. Not to say it can't be done, because we have built facilities in Fort Smith. We put in facilities in Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife over the years to pick up children and adults who were down south, but the flow does not seem to ebb.

So I appreciate the Member's comments, but it is an issue where the Social Programs committee, it would be a valuable opportunity for them early on, say in the next government, to take a look and really appreciate the significant challenges. I can tell you the complexity of some of the presenting problems are stunning, in some cases, in terms of the challenge. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Committee, we are on page 6, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$1.473 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I certainly agree with the Minister that some of the specialized care needs to be in the South because we don't have it in the Northwest Territories. Is there a critical mass in the North that could give warrant to discussion in this Assembly, saying maybe it's time to consider? At this point right now, is it economic to continue to send our people down south for care?

I know there's some discussion in the newspaper as to when residents in the North can maybe be seen as... Do we have the proper resources and facilities here in the North? I'm looking at one at the Stanton Hospital for a patient who may be considered moving down south for appropriate care. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the years the capacity of the Northwest Territories has increased in terms of the complexity of presenting problems and cases that you can work with, families and individuals who are very challenging. But there are still many that are beyond us.

It requires a regular review and oversight by Health and Social Services. As Mr. Bromley pointed out, for example, he had a constituent who they managed to get appropriate placement for. I've had

experiences in my constituency, as well, and they've worked out very well. The case I have in mind is of an individual who was down south literally for decades and came back north and has been there ever since and has been integrated into services into the community. We just have to keep tracking and see what the needs and requirements are. Sometimes you may bring one or two, or you may hit a critical mass like we did in Hay River, where at that particular point in time there were enough people who could be repatriated that a facility was built in Hay River. All the child care facilities we have in the North, and for adults, were all built on that premise of bringing Northerners back home. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Committee, again, we're on page 6, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, program delivery support, not previously authorized, \$1.473 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$4.911 million. Community programs, not previously authorized, \$4.676 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$11.060 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 7, Justice, operations expenditures, services to the government, not previously authorized, \$80,000. Community justice and policing, not previously authorized, \$316,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$396,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 8, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, negative \$150,000. Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$150,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 9, Transportation, operations expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, negative \$624,000. Highways, not previously authorized, \$140,000. Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$484,000. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a question of understanding a term here. The capital investment expenditures, we're transferring funding to that pot, I guess, for lack of a better way of putting it. Where does this money go? What are the capital investment expenditures? Is that a general fund or is it a specific fund? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Mr. Aumond.

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The proposal here is funding for the Trout Lake Airport Relocation Project, so it's just transferring money in the O and M budget to the capital budget for that asset. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks. Just to confirm, this is just simply transferring from the operations or O and M budget into capital. It's not going into any particular... It's just going as a lump sum of money into our capital budget. Thank you.

MR. AUMOND: The money is proposed to be transferred from the O and M budget to the Department of Transportation's capital budget for the Trout Lake Airport Relocation Project.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Aumond, for the clarification. I guess the term that throws me off is "investment." It suggests that we're putting it somewhere and allowing it to grow, so I would maybe suggest to the Minister that the term should be amended for the next time around. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We've noted the Member's suggestion. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just on the dollars for additional engineering studies related to drainage and permafrost studies on the Inuvik runway, how much have we spent so far on that project, and were these unanticipated dollars or are we just trying to move things forward in the future? Thank you.

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

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In '13-14 \$650,000 was approved, and in '14-15 \$2.35 million was approved for the repair of the runway and for additional engineering studies. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BROMLEY: I understand that \$234,000 would be added to the \$2.35 million, so bringing it up to roughly \$2.7 million for this current fiscal year. Will that resolve the issue, or are we anticipating more in the future on this? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money is tied to a potential planned extension of the Inuvik runway. The

Department of National Defence has requested this, so this money is federal money that's offset. They've paid for this work. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I think I understand the situation. This is not just to fix the issue that they had in the middle of the runway. This was also planning for the extension of the Inuvik runway. Have I got that right? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member is correct; there were the two issues. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: That's all I had there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Committee, we're on page 9, Transportation, operations expenditures, airports, not previously authorized. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to ask a question on the \$140,000 with regards to the winter road ice paving program and also to enhance the winter road there. Is the \$140,000 something that the Department of Transportation negotiated with industry with regards to their use of the winter road, their use of sections of the winter road? Is it to put water on the roads and to do other work to ensure that there's safety with industry as they haul their equipment through the Sahtu region?

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

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$140,000 is a contribution from industry for enhanced maintenance on sections of the winter road that they will be using. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that from industry. I want to ask about the enhancement of the program. Is it entire sections of the Mackenzie Valley winter road that they're putting the money into this area here?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're looking at areas of how do they speed up the growth of the ice on ice crossings, repairing of winter roads or structures on ice bridges which are caused by excessive use, and then other just reasonable costs near the end of the season trying to extend road life.

MR. YAKELEYA: Who are these industries?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: LTS Infrastructure Services Limited partnership for \$80,000 and Suncor Energy ENP partnership for \$60,000.

MR. YAKELEYA: So it's a common practice that industry contributes also to our highway maintenance and enhancement of winter roads when they come up into the area to do work. Otherwise, the Department of Transportation would not see this type and amount of money going into winter roads. Is that correct?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That is correct.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, that's all I have to ask.

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

MR. BROMLEY: I would just like to follow up on my colleague's questions. My understanding is that industry's use of the winter roads is a great cost to government and can really beat up the infrastructure. That has certainly been found in every jurisdiction. Is that the experience of this government?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The winter roads, by design, are not meant to take extreme traffic. In some cases it happens, so yes. There is a working relationship with industry to try to make sure we maintain the roads both for the public as well as the industry that is putting a burden on those roads, and it's in everybody's interest.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think it's our responsibility alone, obviously, to provide infrastructure for industry, so I appreciate that expectation that industry would participate in reducing the cost to residents and taxpayers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Comment noted. Committee, we're on page 9, Transportation, operations expenditure summary, airports, not previously authorized, negative \$624,000. Highways, not previously authorized, \$140,000. Total department, not previously authorized, negative 484,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 10, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$2.025 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$2.025 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 11, Lands, operations expenditures, operations, not previously authorized, negative \$165,000. Total department,

not previously authorized, negative \$165,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that consideration for Government of the Northwest Territories Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 104-17(5):
CONCURRENCE OF TD 206-17(5),
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2014-2015,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 206-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 206-17(5) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We'll just let the motion circulate.

The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee, we'll continue on with what we agreed upon earlier, Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 1, 2015-2016. With that, we'll turn it over to the Minister responsible for opening comments. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 1, 2015-2016. This document provides for an increase of \$31.614 million to the 2015-16 capital budget.

The most significant item in these supplementary estimates is funding for the Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$28.5 million, for the first bundle of projects proposed under the provincial-territorial component of the plan. This funding will be offset by the funding available through the new Building Canada Plan.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. If I can get you to head to the witness table, please.

Mr. Miltenberger, for the record, if you can introduce your witnesses again.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deputy minister of Finance, Mike Aumond; deputy secretary to the FMB, Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Again, welcome, Mr. Aumond and Mr. Kalgutkar, to the House.

Committee, we'll open up with general comments. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just some brief comments. I'm really pleased to see these funds finally making it through the budget here. Specifically, on Highway No. 8, the Dempster Highway, as mentioned last year, we had a lot of people unemployed over the summer because this highway, the funds ran out, and I'm glad to see that these funds are now in place for the next 10 years here. A lot of people are going to be happy this summer with a lot of work up in my riding along the Dempster.

Also, as I mentioned, big improvements on this stretch of highway compared to the Yukon. We get a lot of compliments and I think that should be noted to the department as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. General comments. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chairman, I too am happy to see that the first bundle is making its way through the process here. I want to ask the Minister if there's going to be a second bundle coming through. Because what I've seen in the existing highways, and rightly so, they deserve the work that's being asked by the Members here for their highways. I'm still waiting for a highway. I'd like to be part of the group here, I mean, because I know in April we're going to melt away, because our roads are not going to be staying too long.

I just wanted to say that the government is doing some good work to move some of these projects into the highways; however, I am...(inaudible)...waiting for another bundle to come through looking at the Mackenzie Valley Highway so I can be part of the discussion when we talk about highways in the future, and I say in the future. I just wanted to say good work on putting this package together and I look forward to some work here in the future. Those are my comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Continuing on with general comments, I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If a member of the public was looking at this document

they would see that, despite how many times I've been raising Highway No. 7 in this Legislature, over the years there is no contribution here. If the Minister can explain that, and I'll certainly be looking for a response with regard to that. Why is it not on this document and what's the attention this government is going to give Highway No. 7?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. I'll turn it over to Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the first bundle there's going to be four years and \$12 million. Then the second bundle is going to put in more funds, I think to the tune of \$20-some million for the Liard Highway. The first bundle is a four-year time frame, but in a year or year and a half or so we'll be coming forward with the work on the second bundle to make sure everything is in place and there's no break. So the Liard Highway is getting additional attention, not just the money that is before us today. But the plan over the longer term is to continue to invest in the Liard in a significant way. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: That was previously approved, I think it was in the fall time, in our capital budget. Is that correct, Mr. Chair?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member is correct, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. General comments. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say, for the record, I notice Highway No. 9 is missing, the one that runs off the access road straight into Yellowknife Centre, and I think it's time we start to put that on the books.

In all seriousness, Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering, not to get too far ahead of the detail, but is the additional money requested for the Detah road over and above the original contract? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. For that we'll turn it over to the Minister of Transportation. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is part of the original bundle. We had started the Detah road with capital. We put capital into the first section of it, and it was an opportunity to finish off the Detah access road using Building Canada Funds where we thought we would achieve some cost sharing, so we moved it into Building Canada. We only need it for one year, then we're finished that access road.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair, that's good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): General comments. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: I just wanted to ask, the Minister mentioned a second bundle, is there a third

bundle? I just wish there was some news on the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Again, we'll turn it over to the Minister of Transportation, Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working on the second bundle, which includes some work that wasn't on our highways but is some access road money. So that second bundle is something that we are currently putting together. We're trying to put the bundles together that are just under \$100 million. Of course, there will be a third bundle, as well, which is going to be mostly bridges, then there will be a fourth bundle, which is the completion of this current bundle, the first bundle.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: A bundle of money, Mr. Chair. Okay, I'll leave that and I'll figure that out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. General comments. Is committee prepared to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Committee, if I could turn your attention to page 5 of the supplementary estimates. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, negative \$2 million. Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$2 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 6, Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, minerals and petroleum resources, not previously authorized, \$3.621 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$3.621 million. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 7, Lands, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$274,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$274,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 8, Transportation, capital investment expenditures. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have a question here with regards to the total amount of money. The budget indicates that the net impact on government operations is nil because this says \$28.5 million is totally offset by federal funding. There is a cost

sharing between the federal and territorial governments, is my understanding with this Build Canada Fund. What is the percentage of cost share, please? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Seventy-five federal, 25 territorial. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. What I'm trying to understand is this \$28.5 million is presumably the 75 percent, because it's going to be offset by funding from the federal government, so where is our 25 percent share? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Our matching dollars were in the capital plan that was approved in November. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. So, the total cost of these projects is not \$28.5 million is my guess. The total cost is 25 percent more than this. Is that correct? Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thanks, Ms. Bisaro. We'll go to Mr. Kalgutkar.

MR. KALGUTKAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is correct. The total investment in this first bundle is in addition to the 75 that the feds are putting in is the 25 percent of our share as well. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks. I guess my last question would be: What is the total cost of this bundle of projects? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the best way to answer the question is that the total cost of this bundle here is \$96 million. What we're doing is we have the bundle divided into four fiscal years. In this year, the \$28 million, we will be trying to load as much of the federal money, the Building Canada funding, to the front end of this agreement as possible. But at the end of the day, it's going to be spread out over 10 years.

I don't have the matching number here, but I could get that information for committee.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister. I think I understand.

I just have one last comment. I was somewhat dismayed to hear the Minister say that in the next bundle it's going to be mostly bridges. It's already decided what's going in the next bundle and it hasn't even been brought before any Members on this side of the House to have any kind of an input. We didn't have much input into this bundle and

where this money was going, and it sounds like it's already decided where the next several bundles are going, so I have to express my dismay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We'll treat that as a comment. Committee, we're on page 8, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$29.719 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$29.719 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that consideration of Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016 is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 105-17(4):
CONCURRENCE OF TD 207-17(5),
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2015-2016,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 207-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 207-17(5) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We're just circulating the motion.

The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

I would like to thank our witnesses for joining us today. Mr. Kalgutkar and Mr. Aumond, thank you for joining us again. If I could get the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Ms. Bisaro, what is the wish of committee?

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

---Carried

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

MR. SPEAKER: Good afternoon. Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Dolynny.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 188-17(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016; Tabled Document 205-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015; Tabled Document 206-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015; Tabled Document 207-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, and would like to report progress with four motions being adopted and that consideration of Tabled Documents 188-17(5), 205-17(5), 206-17(5) and 207-17(5) are concluded and that the House concur to those estimates and that an appropriation bill based thereon and be introduced without delay. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do I have a seconder? Mrs. Groenewegen.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act
19. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 49, An Act to Amend the Deh Cho Bridge Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 12, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act
 - Bill 36, Health and Social Services Professions Act
 - Committee Report 10-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories
 - Committee Report 11-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 12: Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act
 - Committee Report 12-17(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of Bill 36: Health and Social Services Professions Act
 21. Report of Committee of the Whole
 22. Third Reading of Bills
 23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 10th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

