



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2nd Session

Day 31

18th Assembly

HANSARD

Monday, October 17, 2016

Pages 1007 – 1026

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Published under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, October 17, 2016****Members Present**

Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Julie Green, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. McNeely, Hon. Alfred Moses, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. O'Reilly, Hon. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuynne

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements, Minister of Human Resources.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 80-18(2):
REGIONAL RECRUITMENT PROGRAM**

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT has made a commitment in its mandate to continue to implement the Regional Recruitment Program to assist with increasing regional employment opportunities by linking residents with on-the-job training. In 2014, the GNWT introduced the Regional Recruitment Program to help increase regional recruitment and retention by providing a link between vacant regional positions and northern residents seeking employment.

The Regional Recruitment Program supports participants by providing them with developmental plans and on-the-job training. This enables participants to gain valuable experiences before taking on an indeterminate position.

During the training period, participants receive 80 per cent of the position's salary. The remaining 20 per cent supports the employee's training, which could include travelling to other communities or attending specialized courses. Once the training is complete, successful participants move on to indeterminate positions with the GNWT and, of course, receive full salary for the position.

Mr. Speaker, since the call for applications for the Regional Recruitment Program was first distributed to departments in January 2014, 32 individuals have been appointed to trainee positions. Thirteen of these have been appointed to indeterminate positions. A significant majority of the program participants are priority candidates under the Affirmative Action Policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Resources is looking at ways to enhance the Regional Recruitment Program. Commencing January 2017, the department will begin to implement a communications plan to increase uptake on the program by enhancing communication within the regions about it.

The Regional Recruitment Program is a valuable recruitment and retention tool and has an important role to play in workforce and succession planning over the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, having the staff in place to deliver programs and services to all NWT residents is essential to the overall productivity of the GNWT. By filling vacant regional positions with trained northern workers, we strengthen our labour force and provide employment opportunities where they are most needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 81-18(2):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Glen Abernethy will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Health Conference in Toronto, Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Sahtu.

Members' Statements

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITIES REPORT,
SUMMER 2016**

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I sit here today from our last day session in June with highlighting some of the events that happened throughout Sahtu in the summer months and the activities going on and new recognitions of endorsements. In Colville Lake, we had the community initiate a learning basics training of labour. Deline was recognized for two fronts.

Number one is the recognition of the biosphere reserve underneath the international UNESCO for the Great Bear Lake and their initiation of self-government starting this September 1st. It's the first one of the territories as well as of the region.

In Norman Wells, we seen a bidders' site visit, there, in the potential and proposed reclamation of the Heritage Canal Trail and the Imperial Oil client announcing their intentions to release their two-thirds interest in that particular location.

In Fort Good Hope and Tulita, we've seen preparations under way to finalize the one year extension of the fibre optic project, so it's a job creation that people are looking forward to, and in Fort Good Hope we initiated or the community seen under construction for the summer season the new senior's nineplex and a couple of smaller duplex facilities.

In Tulita, they held their annual handgame tournament and also developed their priorities list for the communities seeking direction and directives and different initiatives, social, economic development, housing, education and so on; and, in particular, they're still in support greatly for the highway extension as well as looking forward to the Capital Plan for the creation of their new health centre, which is a greatly needed facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITIES REPORT,
SUMMER 2016

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you here today to speak about some of the things that happened since we were sitting this past June. First off, I need to apologize to the Minister of Transportation and his senior staff. During the business plans, I said I did not receive a letter regarding positions within the public service. In reality, the Minister did send a letter to the standing committee with this information. Unfortunately, I didn't get a copy until later on. Therefore, I again would like to apologize.

Mr. Speaker, right after session or the sitting, I headed to Ottawa and helped out with Northern Youth Abroad Program with the orientation for the next phase. Mr. Speaker, it was refreshing to see these young adults work hard and achieve everything set out in front of them. These 16 helped me be grounded and reconfirmed the one reason we are here today or one of the reasons we are here today: the youth, our future.

Mr. Speaker, upon return to Yellowknife, I met with the Rules and Procedures Committee as we worked on a number of projects that were assigned to the group. I have to say it was a lot of hard work, and I have to thank everybody involved. Mr. Speaker, upon my return home, I had the opportunity to attend a Dene assembly in Fort Simpson. It was great to hear about the challenges each community faces as well as getting the opportunity to speak to a number of constituents about their issues, wishes, and wants. A number of these issues have been addressed, and a number will be brought to the floor during this session or sitting later this month.

Later that month, I had the opportunity to give my youngest daughter away to a nice young man from Fort Simpson. The wedding was held outside of Edmonton. This is the first time in a number of years I had all my children under one roof. It was a great wedding and a great reunion.

In August, I returned to Ottawa, where I had the opportunity to connect to reorientation with the next in the Canadian phase during Northern Youth Abroad. It was amazing to see how they had grown over the past months, and I'm very thankful to see what our future looks like.

After leaving Ottawa, I had the opportunity to visit my daughter, the City of Fort McMurray and the arrival of my sixth grandchild, Adelee Anne Lindberger who arrived just before I returned home.

Mr. Speaker, in late August we had Caucus retreat in Fort Providence. I'd like to thank the community, their leadership, Mr. Nadli, and his staff for a great meeting and awesome community reception.

In September it was back to Yellowknife where we worked on the 2017-2018 capital plan and development business plans. It was interesting as we worked together for the people of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Minister Moses, Minister Cochrane, and Minister Abernethy for coming to the region and hearing the concerns first-hand. In my opinion, the tour was very successful and beneficial.

As well, I would like to thank the whole Cabinet for coming to Fort Simpson on October 3, 2016, for the open house and coffee shop meeting. There were over 50 folks attending, which included Ministers' staff and general public, in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to this session as we move forward. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
YELLOWKNIFE POWER RATES

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, one of the priorities set by the mandate of the 18th Assembly is to address our high cost of living. Affordability is the number one issue for Yellowknifers and it affects everything from power, to housing, to even job opportunities. Recently, claims have been made that Yellowknife consumers are possibly being overcharged for power, and frankly, Mr. Speaker, if this is true, I find that most egregious.

Northland Utilities has been driving this public discussion and has stated that the Northwest Territories Power Corporation is overcharging the residents of Yellowknife by setting the rate at 114 per cent of the cost to generate and transmit power to the City. This translates into Yellowknifers paying \$500 more than residents of other communities.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Northland Utilities claims, since 2008, the government has overcharged Yellowknife residents by \$28 million. These claims by Northland have been followed by an aggressive media campaign and even a poll of residents conducted by foreign research, while the government's response to this has been silent to date. In fact, the last time I saw the NTPC in the media was over power rate increases.

Needless to say, this is not instilling confidence in our consumers. Communication has been a constant problem with this government and this is another clear example of that. It would be beneficial to Yellowknifers, residents of the small communities, and Members of this House if the government would make the effort to explain if there is a plan to make power generation more equitable and more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many of my constituents that this is an issue that means a lot to them. It is the subject of conversations around the water cooler, at the dinner table, and every time someone opens their power bill. What I have heard consistently is Northerners all want to be treated fairly in paying for power, and I want some clarity on this issue from this government.

It's time for the Minister to demonstrate real leadership by explaining to this House and to Northerners what his plan is to deal with the high costs of power generation and how each community is treated fairly. Later, I will have questions for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD PROGRAM

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Today, I would like to do my Member's statement on DOT's Community Access Road program. Mr. Speaker, the Community Access Road Program currently has about \$1 million for distribution to the communities. I realize that application for this program runs about \$1.4 million; however, I feel that the budget should be increased to \$1.5 million for the next fiscal year, then increased to \$2 million the following fiscal year. The new budget for this program should be set at \$2 million moving forward.

The Community Access Road Program is a very good program in our small communities where little road infrastructure exists. It is a program that is used each year to employ a few people in the small communities. As I have said many times, we need to put our people in the small communities to work.

Mr. Speaker, it is well documented that there is a clear correlation between employment and the health of our citizens. When people are working, they are healthier and happier. Mr. Speaker, it is a well-known fact that, as income goes up, health and social issues go down. We all know the high costs of poor health and the high costs of social issues on education, justice and housing.

The Access Road Program is used by the communities to access traditional culture areas near their communities so it also continues to pay dividends for years as it supports people to be out in the land, doing something productive and healthy.

Mr. Speaker, I can go on and on about the benefit of this program. However, I would rather ask the question to the Minister of DOT about his initiatives on this program moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CANADA CHILD TAX BENEFIT

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is an important day. It is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as declared by the United Nations and marked each year on this date since 1987.

I believe all of us understand that poverty is a problem here in the Northwest Territories, as it is in

much of the world. According to 2014's CRA tax filer data, 17 per cent of families and 22 per cent of children live in poverty in communities across the NWT.

In March, the federal government announced it would help families with income under \$80,000 a year with the cost of raising their children. The Canada Child Tax Benefit came into effect on July 1st this year.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment celebrated this new benefit by announcing that, starting in August, the GNWT would not count this new benefit as income "to ensure our residents have the full benefit." This sounded like good news and a much-needed lift for people caught in the never-ending cycle of making ends meet.

Alas, the expression "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" applies in this situation. Let's take a single parent with one child, receiving income assistance and living in Yellowknife. Since August 1st, she is receiving an additional \$450 from the federal government. At the same time the federal government was giving, the territorial government was taking away. Her food allowance from income assistance decreased by \$137 a month and clothing by \$31 a month. So instead of getting the full benefit of the new \$450 Canada Child Tax Benefit, she is getting just \$282. No matter the size of the family or where in the territory they live, the amount of income assistance they receive for food and clothing has decreased.

The Minister has been clever about making these changes. It's hard to describe them as clawback, because he's not clawing back either the Canada or NWT child benefits. In fact, he's not counting them as income anymore. But at the same time, he has reduced the benefits available to families who rely on income assistance for food and clothing. It's not a clawback; it's a reduction. Because the federal government has increased the Child Tax Benefit, families have a little more income than they used to have. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek permission from my colleagues to conclude my statement. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'll go to the bottom line, and this is what it is: the GNWT is helping to perpetuate the poverty trap. They are not allowing families to experience the full benefit of the new federal anti-poverty initiative. Shame, Mr. Speaker, shame for trying to save money on the backs of the most vulnerable residents of this territory. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an important occasion for the northern business community, as the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce is marking Small Business Week. It's a time to recognize and celebrate the men and women who work in small business, the backbone of our local economy.

Small businesses offer so much to our community. They support sports and recreation, they support youth and seniors, they contribute to the arts, and their generosity supports Yellowknife's vibrant and colourful festivals. Most importantly, as they succeed and grow, they create jobs, making our economy and community stronger and more robust.

I also want to take the opportunity to congratulate the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce on 70 years of representing, supporting and advocating for the business community in our capital city. The Chamber works tirelessly in support of Yellowknife businesses and is a great benefit to our vibrant community and the North. Examples include initiatives like Small Business Week in support of the independent entrepreneurs in our community and region.

The annual tradeshow sponsored by the chamber brings together businesses from around the community and the whole territory promoting and facilitating creativity, innovation, and the sharing of ideas. Other initiatives include business luncheons and the Afterhours Networking Program. All these programs are set up to encourage the interchange of ideas, independence and progressive growth in business. The healthier climate for exchange of ideas in networking among business owners supports a more robust and active economy. The chamber also advocates for businesses with the city, territorial, and other levels of government. It deserves credit for good relationships and communication between these different entities which help us as a community and a territory to move forward together.

Mr. Speaker, a healthy diversified economy with a vibrant small business community is crucial to our ability to move forward as a territory. Small businesses create jobs and wealth and disposable income that goes right back into the economy. As our economy grows broader and more diverse it becomes healthier, more secure and more robust. Mr. Speaker, the chamber is an important supporter of healthy NWT business communities and we all benefit from that. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce on its 70th anniversary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
WATER MANAGEMENT IN MACKENZIE VALLEY

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Water management in the Mackenzie Valley region of the Northwest Territories is done differently than elsewhere in Canada. We have a public co-management system that is constitutionally entrenched through land rights agreements with Indigenous governments.

Water management in the Northwest Territories underwent a very significant change as of April 1, 2014, when our government was delegated authority over inland waters from the federal government. Devolution over resources had been discussed and negotiated over more than 25 years.

NWT residents wanted more control over decisions, but to what end? The current and NWT Premier of the day, Bob McLeod, promised that we would "devolve and then evolve" our resource management systems inherited from Ottawa. Aboriginal governments and observers have raised serious concerns about a recent GNWT decision on a water licence amendment by a diamond mining company. The board held a public hearing, took in evidence from a broad range of parties, and came up with a reasoned decision. It set effluent levels from dredging in a manner that was protective in the short and long-term for aquatic life. The effluent levels were tougher in some ways than the original licence and the company request.

The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources received the amendment licence and had the authority to sign off on it, or send it back for reconsideration. In this case, the Minister made an almost unprecedented decision to send the licence amendment back for reconsideration. The company wrote to the Minister twice after the public hearing, claiming that the process was unfair. After receiving the second letter from the company, the Minister wrote back stating that he could not accept any further representations due to procedural fairness concerns.

By sheer coincidence, the Minister sent the licence amendment back to the board for reconsideration on the same day, due to procedural fairness concerns. The direction for reconsideration caused an enormous amount of confusion, stress and work on the part of many participants. Recently, the company withdrew its amendment request when it realized that the reconsideration process would stretch out until the completion of the construction season.

The company did not offer any new evidence to dispute the licence amendment. Mr. Speaker, this is a very dangerous precedent in a place where many rights and interests are finely balanced, and where we still have an opportunity to get it right when it comes to water management. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and mahsi to my colleagues. This is why NWT residents fought hard for land rights, co-management, and devolution. We have much higher expectations for our political leadership and will need to work very hard to restore public confidence. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FILM SCREENING OF THE SUN AT MIDNIGHT

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Ms. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Fort McPherson was buzzing with excitement on September 25th as the Gwich'in Tribal Council's Department of Cultural Heritage hosted the first screening of the film, "The Sun at Midnight". This 90-minute film was shot entirely in the Northwest Territories, in and around Fort McPherson, the Dempster Highway, the Richardson Mountains, Yellowknife, and Behchoko. This film is about a young girl raised in the south who, following the death of her mother, went north to stay with family. The story goes on that the young girl tries to escape and ends up at the hands of a Gwich'in Hunter who teaches her the skills to survive.

Mr. Speaker, to be able to understand the rest of the story, you'll just have to watch the movie. The film was also played at the Yellowknife Film Festival on October 1st where the GTC Department of Cultural Heritage hosted a gala event following the screening. In attendance were Gwich'in members, filmmakers, politicians, and select individuals to help celebrate the film.

Mr. Speaker, future screenings will be held at various film festivals worldwide and on media platforms. This being the first time a feature film has been filmed in the Delta, with high hopes that future films will be shot in the NWT to open doors, full of opportunities for our local actors and story tellers. Congratulations to the Department of Cultural Heritage staff, writer and director Kristen Carthew, and producer Jill and Jackfish Productions, in association with the GTC Department of Cultural Heritage, the GNWT, and Telefilm Canada. Also to my constituents who took part in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nahendeh.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to recognize two pages that are selected from my riding, Sambaa K'e, Charles Tetcho School, the two students that were working as pages during this week. The two pages are Jada Lamalice and Atanda Kotchea and Norma Jumbo is the chaperone. So I thank them and welcome them to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 5, recognition of visitors in gallery. If we missed those, anyone in the gallery, welcome to the Assembly. It's always nice to have a great audience in the gallery. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgments. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 11-18(2):
PASSING OF RUTH SPENCE

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the passing of my great friend and mentor Ruth Spence. Mrs. Spence was a force to be reckoned with from the time she arrived in Yellowknife. She was the first executive director of the YWCA in Yellowknife. She built the Y from a 12-bed home for single women to the 84 apartments at Northern United Place.

Mrs. Spence served several terms on the Yellowknife City Council, was chair of the Stanton Territorial Hospital, and the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. She was honoured with one of the first Orders of the NWT last year. She lived the famous saying of another great Canadian woman, Agnes MacPhail: "Never apologize, never explain, just get the thing done and let them howl."

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences to the family as well from the House. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 327-18(2):
COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD PROGRAM

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci Cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on my Member's statement today I talked about Community Access Road Program for DOT. I'd like to ask that Minister questions on that. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister if he's had discussions with his department about increasing the community access road program? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have had a number of discussions with the department on the Community Access Road Program, mostly around funding applications and where certain applications are at, but I have never had the discussion about increasing funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member statement, there are more applications than there is budget in the program. Although there has been discussion but none on increases as the Minister indicated, has the Minister had any sort of discussions with his colleagues at Cabinet and specifically the Minister of Finance to increase his budget for the community access road program?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: No, I have not had this discussion with my Cabinet colleagues or the Finance Minister. The discussions we have had are how do we live within the fiscal means that we have based on revenues that we have and expenditures. That is the only discussions I have had around money.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I think it is obvious from this answer, but I will ask the Minister anyway, if the Minister recognizes the positive impacts of community-based spending in the NWT for the entire NWT?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Of course we recognize the positive impacts that this money has in the communities. This fund actually increases seasonal employment in many communities in the Northwest Territories as well as helps with project management and helps these communities look at some of these projects moving forward. We do recognize the positive impacts they have and that is some of the reasons why we are going through our fiscal policies we are promoting for this next fiscal budget so we can have money to invest in some of these small community initiatives.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: The Minister hasn't had discussions with colleague Members or the department. However, I would like to ask the Minister if he can commit to taking a serious look at increasing community access road program through forced growth if necessary or a new initiative or any other method that the Minister may have in his repertoire?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to having a look at how we can increase this, but as I said, looking at our fiscal situation that we are in, in light of the next budget cycle year, we can have a look at how we do it. It

doesn't meet the definition of forced growth, so I can't use that to increase it. But it would take all 19 Members of the Assembly to help straighten out our fiscal situation where we can, like I say, put money into small communities in this type of initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 328-18(2):
MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY FUNDING
PROPOSAL

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for recognizing me here. We heard in the news that the federal government has put the Mackenzie Valley project on the backburner. Can the Minister please explain why we have to hear about this in the news and not through the normal process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department drafted a letter to inform the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure of the federal government's decision to temporarily suspend the Mackenzie Valley Highway funding proposal. Unfortunately, the correspondence was delayed to Committee.

I appreciate the importance of keeping Members informed on decisions around the federal infrastructure funding and have taken steps to ensure decisions are communicated in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess we are going to have to work on our mail service here in the Legislative Assembly so that we can actually get these documents on time instead of through the news.

Can the Minister confirm if the federal government has not put this just on hold or the backburner and when did he find out if it has been put there?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The federal government has informed us that the review of the Mackenzie Valley Highway project proposal under the new Building Canada Fund national infrastructure component has been temporarily suspended until the federal government makes a decision on phase two of the capital infrastructure money, their long-term plan. Phase two planning fund is expected to be announced early next year in communicating the temporary suspension of the Mackenzie Valley Highway project.

The federal government indicated the desire to align such projects with the Minister of Infrastructure and communities' mandate, which includes strategic projects such as transportation

corridors, ports, borders, gateways, etc. The Mackenzie Valley Highway project, as the House knows, is a key strategic transportation corridor, and we have reminded Minister Sohi of the importance of this project as well as other priority transportation corridors in Northwest Territories.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. I am thankful he is actually promoting this. Can the Minister please say what type of promotion, besides just talking to him? Has there been a business study that they have presented to him or anything like that?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: One of the priority actions outlined in the mandate of the Assembly is to capture opportunities to invest in transportation and infrastructure by working to secure funding to advance the Mackenzie Valley highway, the all-weather road to Whati, and to improve access to the Slave geological province. I can assure the House and Members that I am taking every opportunity to encourage and invest – investment in the key of these three corridors. I personally met with Minister Sohi in the federal department to talk about this as well as Minister Garneau to reiterate the importance of the corridors to Northerners and the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project and the need for federal investment.

My communications with Minister Sohi have focused on the need for phase two funding under the long-term federal infrastructure plan to address the infrastructure deficit in the North and, in particular, the need to advance the three priority corridors including the Mackenzie Valley Highway. We have also submitted to Minister Garneau in support of implementation recommendations to the North made in the CTA report panel, which we always talk about every time we have a chance to meet federal Ministers. I will continue to bring this to the federal Ministers in promoting the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho to the Minister for his answer. Will the Minister please commit to provide us on this side a quarterly or bi-annual report on the status of this project so we don't lose it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: What I can do is commit to provide updates on the Mackenzie Valley Highway project as they become available to us. I will commit to providing them to the Members as they come in.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 329-18(2):
INCOME ASSISTANCE AND CANADA CHILD TAX
BENEFIT

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I wonder if the Minister could tell me what the rationale is for reducing clothing and food benefits to income assistance recipients since the introduction of the Canada Child Tax Benefit? Masi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, previous, before we made the changes to the income assistance program, the federal child benefit was actually counted as income. What we did was we took that child tax benefit out of the assessment, which came out of the food and clothing and used it to recalculate how we get the new funding going forward.

So it was actually part of the food and clothing. That came out, so it wouldn't be re-assessed again. The NWT contribution remained the same. That is what is shown. It was just taken out to do a different way of re-calculating. That is what the Member is referring to, I believe.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate that the Minister has now enabled income assistance recipients to keep a wider range of income than was previously the case. However, the amount of money paid for both food and clothing has been reduced for income assistance recipients. How can the Minister justify reducing these assistance amounts when they are meant to alleviate poverty for the people who are most in need?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: When we restructured the program, the Federal Child Tax Benefit was included in the assessments. We took those assessments out. Our contribution, the NWT's contribution, hasn't changed. That's what the Member is seeing, that number now, not included with the federal dollars. So not that the federal dollars are out and we're not assessing it. It does look like the funding went down for food and clothing, which, in fact, it hasn't. Actually, more families are getting more money.

Since we haven't had any concerns brought forward since we did the implementation, as a result we did do a review. We reviewed 171 families since we did the implementation. I just want to share a couple of quick stats, here. Since we put the changes in, we have seen an increase in approximately 14 per cent from July to September for our families. In July, approximately \$79,000 of children's federal benefits was counted as income. September of that year,

families were getting a reported total approximately of \$166,000 extra in that month.

Instead of taking \$79,000 back, we actually increased it to \$166,000. On average, that's about \$500 extra per family, and then 17 of the 171 families received a total of \$10,120 in September in child support payments. The government has not reduced its food and clothing allowance. It has remained the same. We just took out the Child Tax Benefit and have actually given families more money since the implementation.

MS. GREEN: The information I'm drawing on is information that the Minister provided. We're talking about the amount of money that's paid to income assistance recipients. In every example that the Minister provided, the amount of money paid for clothing and for food has gone down.

While the bottom line for most people is better, it's not as good as it could be because the overall effect of the Canada Child Tax Benefit has been diminished. So my question again is: how can the Minister justify not enabling families to collect the whole amount that they are eligible for?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: In fact, they are collecting every cent that's come from the federal government. As I said before, our dollars didn't change, their contributions didn't change, and all the examples that the Member is referring to in the presentation we gave her, we took out the Federal Child Tax Benefit and it has been recalculated so that families actually get every cent that they were supposed to get from the federal government. Our contribution hasn't changed. So every example is just that Federal Child Tax Benefit coming out so that families can get every cent that they were entitled to.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for that answer. I think one of the major issues here is that I needed the help of the research department to understand exactly what was going on in the administration of these benefits. I stand by the remarks that I made, that every example shows a decrease in both food and clothing allowances.

I understand the Minister doesn't believe that this is the case, but that's what my research shows. So maybe -- and this is going to turn into a comment rather than a question. I'll follow up with written questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I'll take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 330-18(2):
POWER GENERATION RATES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation explain if the corporation is, in fact, overcharging by 114 per cent for the costs of power delivered to Northland Utilities for resale in the Yellowknife market? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, there is no basis for NUL's assumption or assertion that we are overcharging by 114 per cent. As the House will know, electricity rates and cost of service percentages are regulated by the Public Utilities Board, which is an open and thorough process. So residents here are not being overcharged. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: Can the Minister also explain if the Yellowknife rates are being used to subsidize rates in other rate zones throughout the NWT?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yellowknife rates do not subsidize those in other rate zones, such as the South Slave or the thermal communities. This could never be the case, as cost of service in one zone is not applied to other zones.

MR. TESTART: Just to return to my first question, the Minister made a comment about overcharging by 115 per cent. The reality is it's a 100 per cent rate versus 114 per cent rate. So are Yellowknifers being charged 14 per cent more than other communities?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: No. Residents of Yellowknife are not being overcharged and are not paying 114 per cent of other zones. If that's the question; I'm not sure that I understood the question fully.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Either way, the rates for power generation are far too high in the Northwest Territories. Making the North a more affordable place is an important priority for me and for every Member here. Can the Minister explain what this government is doing and how it's working with the Power Corporation to reduce the high cost of electricity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure Members of this House will recall, a new board of directors was put in place in the spring of this year, which in itself represented a considerable savings. If I recall, the number is approximately \$1 million. The new board has been tasked with many things,

but clearly they are there to examine the costs of providing power in the Northwest Territories. We are faced with certain difficulties in that the population is stable, or declining in some cases, and yet costs continue to go up. So we are working with the corporation, the board, to reduce costs. We recognize that this is an important issue. We are looking as far afield as perhaps supplying power to southern jurisdictions. So this is a primary focus of the new board, the corporation and the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 331-18(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES WATER LICENCE
DECISIONS

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I spoke of a most disturbing decision by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources to not accept a decision by the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board on a water license amendment and to send it back for reconsideration.

I would like to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources whether this has happened before under water legislation for the Northwest Territories, where a Minister has refused to accept a decision and sent the matter back for reconsideration? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. ENR is only aware of one instance, in December 2011, where the federal Minister of the day of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development was unable to render a decision on the renewal of a type-A water license. It was actually held by the NWT Power Corporation. The Minister identified that the decision could not be rendered until an issue that was outstanding was resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: That's an interesting example. I thank the Minister for it. That water legislation has basically been in place since 1970, early 1970, so this is a very rare occurrence, indeed. I don't understand why the Minister did not write to the company after the first letter and say no further representations could be considered after the public hearing by the board. Some may view this as a breach of procedural fairness. Why did the Minister not tell the company that the proper avenue for questioning procedural fairness was to seek judicial review? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. It was sent back to the board because there was a question of procedural fairness. As he said before in his Member's statement, with devolution we will have more responsibility and ability to deal with these a lot quicker than they have been dealt with in the past, and I can commit to the Member and this House that we take that responsibility very seriously, and we will be looking at ways in the future where we can avoid the confusion.

MR. O'REILLY: I'm glad to hear the Minister is prepared to clear up this confusion, but can the Minister tell this House and the public whether there are any specific measures or policies in place to prevent this kind of approach of accepting submissions from water licence applicants after public hearings?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we can't control the correspondence from any external parties during the ministerial decision phase of the water licensing process, and correspondence received during the decision phase is not considered in making the decision. The Minister, we rely on the board's reasons for the decision, and, as far as any policies in place, I would have to do some research and follow up with the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am pleased to work with the Minister to make sure that we can protect the integrity of our co-management systems, but some would say the GNWT has shown its cards by siding with the mining company rather than the protection of the environment and thrown the integrity of the evidence-based co-management system into doubt. We'll also have to convince Ottawa that we are capable of managing our own resources if we hope to get any further jurisdiction or powers under the devolution agreement and process. Mr. Speaker, how does the Minister intend to rebuild public confidence in our co-management systems, ensure procedural fairness, and convince Ottawa that we can properly and fairly manage our own resources? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't think that it's true that the government is siding with the mining companies, and as far as restoring public confidence, as I said before, there was a bit of confusion and we will take steps to ensure that this doesn't happen again, and we will have a clear set of rules that everyone is going to need to follow, and I believe Ottawa will come to the conclusion that we are quite capable of managing our resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Hay River North.

QUESTION 332-18(2):
NWT AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to talk about agriculture. I know it seems odd now there's snow on the ground, but we need to be ready for next spring. In the summer of 2015, the Government of the Northwest Territories underwent community consultations for the development of the NWT Agriculture Strategy. We're now in the fall of 2016, and so I would like to get an update from the Minister of ITI to see where that strategy is, to make sure that it's ready to be implemented for next spring? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've had the opportunity to bring the Agriculture Strategy to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, and, based on their review of the document, we are revising the draft presently and putting in their recommendations, and once it's completed the draft will be circulated to other departments and include their internal reviews, and once that's done it's our goal to bring the draft back to committee next month.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you to the Minister. There's been other issues with agriculture in the territory, good issues. Industry is moving quickly. The problem is government needs to catch up. There's been issues with selling domestic meat. We don't have the proper regulations in place. There's regulations in place for the sale of wild harvested meat, but, when it comes to domestic farm-raised animals, we're not quite there yet. Is the government doing something to address this so next season in the spring there will be something in place where farmers who wish to have livestock will be able to sell this meat?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: During the review of our agriculture strategy, there has definitely been some challenges that were identified in this and one of them was the sale of and safe sale of locally produced meat. We are working on it. We are working with a number of departments, Health and Social Services in particular, to ensure that locally produced food can be sold to the public safely in the Northwest Territories, and I can update the Members now. The Department of Health and Social Services is reviewing its Public Health Act and regulations to address these gaps related to the food inspection, so hopefully by next summer we will be able to sell locally produced meat to the public of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SIMPSON: I appreciate that answer, as well. That's good to hear. We have a program, an agreement with the federal government, Growing Forward 2. It matches GNWT contributions 60/40, and it's used to grow the agriculture sector, particularly commercial agriculture. At the current rate of GNWT contributions we're going to miss out on over \$1 million of this federal funding. Does the department have a plan to increase its contribution to take full advantage of the federal funds before the five-year agreement ends?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The Member is absolutely right. This is a 60/40 plan cost-shared with the federal government, and the annual contribution last year from the federal government was \$732,000 and the GNWT was providing up to \$488,000 in this program. The movement of programming dollars to ENR's Take a Kid Harvesting and Take a Kid Trapping programs has negatively impacted ITI's Growing Forward equity funding, so what we've done is ITI is currently checking with other departments such as Health and Social Services and ENR to see if they have any programs that could fall under this funding requirement to help us to build our equity portion for the Growing Forward position. ITI is meeting with the federal government representatives next month to see what additional equity we can be using, and I will gladly get back to the Member on how that works out.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions, Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 333-18(2):
HIGHWAY NO. 4 CONSTRUCTION AND SAFETY
CONCERNS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise again. This is the second time this week that this matter has been raised. My questions are for the Minister of Transportation. It's with regard to the safety of Highway No. 4 on the stretch from Niven Gate into town, the four-way stop in front of the Explorer Hotel.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to get correspondence from concerned citizens with regard to the safety of that stretch, and, as most know, now we have two hotels there with visitors as well as higher vehicle traffic in the area. It's becoming really concerning, given that there is no delineations on the roadway whatsoever right now as it relates to painted lines, and, as we're getting into the darker days, Mr. Speaker, this is all very problematic and troublesome as it relates to public safety; and so my first question for the Minister is: first, does the Minister recognize that this is now a commonly used active transportation corridor for walkers and cyclers and the like? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a commonly used area. As I walk it every day when I come to work, I have crossed the highway and I come up the side of the highway and then take the secondary road to the Legislative Assembly. As I have stated in the House yesterday, we are working on this. We've met with the City of Yellowknife, user groups from Niven Lake, and we will continue to meet with them, and, as of even recently today, I've mentioned to another Member from the City of Yellowknife that at our next meeting I will gladly invite all the MLAs from the City of Yellowknife to participate in those talks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Although I appreciate that the Minister continues to give this reply, the meetings are not being productive; and what do the meetings mean, anyway? This is not the city's stretch of road. This is not the hotel's responsibility. This is not the other stakeholders' responsibility. The bottom line is, this stretch of road is under the ownership, operation, and maintenance of the Department of Transportation and it is their budget that needs to be invested in the public safety of this highway. We are putting people at risk. When are we going to stop the meetings and pushing this aside, and when are we going to start to invest in public safety? Will the Minister commit his department to this capital budget in putting in a delineated line where the public can walk safely and ride safely from Niven Gate into town?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I stated in the House yesterday, we want to move forward with painting the lines on the highway, weather permitting, and this would be including the line along the edge of the highway where people can walk. Weather permitting, we are committed to doing that within the next coming weeks, so long as the weather is there.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. Also in addition, as it has been requested a number of times and now that there is a significant amount of foot traffic, bike traffic, and in some instances, parents pushing strollers, now with the new hotel and seemingly traffic coming in four different directions in and out of the Ledge, in and out of the new hotel, in and out of town, will the Minister make a commitment from his department to put an illuminated pedestrian crosswalk from the entrance to the new hotel across to the Legislative Assembly so people can safely cross that stretch of road?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: No, I cannot make that commitment here today because I believe, if

we are going to do this, this is the same similar situation we had in Hay River. There had to be a traffic study done and bring all user groups together, how we would move forward with this, what type of even traffic stuff we would have to have in place there. There are various things that would have to be considered. But what I do commit to in this House is I would sit down with all the user groups, as I said yesterday, the City of Yellowknife, the Niven Lake working group, Alternatives North, the Yellowknife Members, and bring it back to this House if we need to put some infrastructure into place there.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that response, because it sounds to me like now we might be able to do a traffic study. I'm not sure that we need all of these stakeholders involved to give the approval that they would want one done. I think I can speak freely for them now and say, let's get on with it. Will this government commit to doing a traffic study as soon as possible, meaning immediately? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said, we have to include everybody. We're not going to exclude everybody. We have to involve everybody in this process and make sure it's done in a fair and equitable manner and everyone has an opportunity to have input. I appreciate the Member's comments that he'd like us to commit to doing it right away, but there has to be a process in place where everyone can have their input and make sure it's the best decision moving forward.

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

QUESTION 334-18(2):
REGIONAL RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today the Minister of Human Resources made a Minister's statement on the Regional Recruitment Program. I have some questions on that. I would like to ask the Minister what the duration of the training would be for 80 per cent of the salary? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Human Resources.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generally the duration is about one year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Can the Minister advise the House if it is possible for the duration of the regional recruitment candidates to have their training extended beyond one year, like maybe two years or more, if necessary?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Extensions could be considered on a case-by-case basis. So as they go through the training, if there's a need to extend the training further so that they can work on their qualifications, then it would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

MR. BEAULIEU: As the Minister knows, I represent Detah and Ndilo. I would like to ask the Minister, for the purpose of this program, is Yellowknife also considered a regional centre that would include all the positions in Yellowknife, not just the regional office? Because of the proximities of the communities I represent, I'd like to know if all of Yellowknife is considered a region for the purpose of the Regional Recruitment Program.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: My understanding is that the folks in the Detah-Ndilo area, are they eligible, the short answer is yes, they are.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that, under the Regional Recruitment Program, that 32 persons would be recruited to GNWT positions. I'd like to ask the Minister if he has a target for how many regional recruitment candidates he would like to have at the end of this fiscal year, and what that target would be? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We aim to support a minimum of 15 each year, no target at the year end. Applications are being received continually over the year, and we would strongly encourage the regions to utilize this program. We feel that there is a lot of value in this program. As Members of this House have heard us say a number of times, we have to start looking at succession planning, and this might be a valuable tool in achieving that. So I would strongly encourage NWT residents that, if they are interested in any particular type of training, to approach HR and the GNWT to see if there are opportunities for that training.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 335-18(2):
SALE OF FORMER TREATMENT CENTRE NEAR
DETAH

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I have some questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation about the sale of the treatment centre on the Detah Road. My first question is: does the sale include both the land and the building? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The building that we're talking about was sold, actually, by the NWT Housing Corporation on August 6, 2015. At that time, it did include both the land and the building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: How did the NWT Housing Corporation arrive at a price for that land and building?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: In 2011, actually, the Housing Corporation had a formal appraisal done of the building and the land.

MS. GREEN: Right around the time we were elected, so in other words when the Minister was not yet the Minister, the treatment centre sold for almost double the price of the appraisal, which I take to be \$880,000. Does the Minister have any idea how the building suddenly gained all that value?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: At the time, the appraisal came in at \$1.225 million.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us, then, whether the media report of the centre selling for \$880,000 is accurate and why and how it came to be sold for that price? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The building actually was zoned as an institutional building which limits the usage and so we had very few people that were interested in purchasing it. We had tried to go to the community. We had offered it to other departments. Selling of the building is actually one of the last recourses, so the price that we did actually sell it for was negotiated with the buyer after being on the market and Coldwell Banker which is our normal real estate firm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 336-18(2):
CALCULATION OF POWER RATE

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. In each hydro rate zone, which holds the highest rate for consumers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister Responsible for NWT Power Corporation.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, there are of course various zones. I haven't looked into it lately, but I would speculate the Yellowknife area has the highest rates. Thank you.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the Minister will find these correct once he looks into it, and Fort Smith, his home town, is probably the lowest. Does the Minister know how the Northwest Territories Power Corporation allocates its overhead and admin cost to each rate zone?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: It is a rather complex method by which costs are arrived at, but there's a revenue-to-cost coverage ratio, as is called RCC, and that is of course different in each zone and I do confirm that Fort Smith area does have the lowest rates. Thank you.

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, we're currently subsidizing diesel communities in the thermal zones at the rate, the Yellowknife hydro rate, which as the Minister has confirmed is the highest rate. Why do we not use the lowest hydro rate, the Fort Smith rate, for these diesel subsidies, give a break to our smaller communities, and let them enjoy the benefits that the Minister enjoys back at home?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, the thermal zones, the smaller communities are already massively subsidized and we have found that that is the most appropriate way of dealing with the issue of supplying power to these small communities. If it was to be based on the Fort Smith rate, it would be even a larger subsidy required.

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, certainly the cost of power is high and that's exactly what we're talking about, and earlier I was pleased to hear the Minister set a new direction for the board to address this issue. Why are there three hydro rates, Mr. Speaker, and why is Yellowknife being charged the most out of those three? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, at one point in the distant past, there was a very complex arrangement by which virtually every community had its own rate which led to great complexity and very, very lengthy hearings in front of the Public

Utilities Board because each community had to go through the costs and so on. We thought that at the time, and I was on the board and so I had some input on this, that the fairest way was to move to the current rate that we now have. So there are different amounts paid by different communities. I would like, however, the Member opposite to recall that all taxpayers massively subsidized the Yellowknife area, the Snare in the two years that there was low water. I believe that was more than \$40 million. So yes, we have helped the small communities, yes, Fort Smith does have the lowest rate, but Yellowknife has been considerably helped by subsidies also.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 337-18(2):
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN IMPACTS ON
ABORIGINAL HEAD START PROGRAM

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, over the last, I believe, year and a half, junior kindergarten has raised a lot of concerns either through the Aboriginal Head Start program, daycare programs throughout the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I did ask the Minister this question last month during our business plans, but I'd like to ask them again. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister how will junior kindergarten affect the funding of the Aboriginal Head Start program? If it does, can the Minister explain it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Implementation of the Junior Kindergarten Program, as we're looking to implement in 2017-18, will have no impact on the funding for Aboriginal Head Start program. The Aboriginal Head Start program is a federally funded program. We also fund Aboriginal Head Start through our Early Childhood Programs. In 2015-16, we funded the programs to the total of 260,000 additional dollars on top of the federal funding that they get, and it's forecasted that we'll have \$285,000 to the eight Aboriginal Head Start programs throughout the Northwest Territories. So from our standpoint as we're implementing it and just to ensure everyone and remind everyone that junior kindergarten is an optional program. So moving forward, junior kindergarten implementation will not affect the funding from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I realize this is a federal funding for the program, but would the Minister have any idea why the three workers that are in

Fort McPherson, for example, have a three-month contract for Head Start? Is that just some of the guidelines that they follow? If the Minister could answer that, I'd appreciate it.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, Aboriginal Head Start is a federally funded program, so I think what we can do out of our department is reach out to our federal counterparts and see why it's only a three-month contract and can do that work on behalf of the Members to see why it's only a three-month program moving forward.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that information. You know, as I mentioned, these three workers have recently all just got their certificates for Early Childhood and, you know, they're looking at hopefully a career and you know ongoing, you know, and to be cut short by this, we cannot allow this to happen, and I will just look forward to that information.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Okay, there's a comment. Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

QUESTION 338-18(2):
NORMAN WELLS RECLAMATION OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I ask the questions on the Norman Wells reclamation to the Minister of ITI, and it includes a number of factors, and I wish not for the information to be relayed onto the two departments that are devolutionally responsible for land management, environmental resources, and so on. So if I can get some clarification on the questions that I asked? Number one is, everybody knows that Norman Wells has contributed a great wealth to the shareholders. The shareholders are the federal and the private shareholder, Imperial Oil, holding two-thirds and the feds holding one-third, and a significant amount of that contribution to the local, territorial, and federal economies have been produced by that particular location, and over the years of operation, we've seen a number of pre-devolution activities which contribute to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Sahtu, your question.

MR. MCNEELY: My question is that is the Minister of ITI willing to support an oversight committee to ensure that the property is cleaned and discussions are held for transfer of title? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is well aware, Esso has filed an interim closure reclamation plan. This is early days for this stuff. It's just to get out there and get some input on how the field may be shut down and get input into it, but Esso is still operating and it will continue to operate for a number of years to come, and I don't see the need for us to be getting involved with this just yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: Mr. Speaker, a simple yes or no would have been appropriate so we can move on to creating some jobs for the reclamation, but, yes, I'm quite familiar with the activities in my area and the interim reclamation permit sought by the company. In taking a more proactive role in the responsibilities of devolution, I think we shouldn't sit back and wait. If we had –

MR. SPEAKER: Member, what is your second question, please?

MR. MCNEELY: My question is: are we going to get a yes or a no?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: No.

---Laughter

MR. MCNEELY: Okay. Well, would the Minister support, let's say, the other Department of Lands to initiate this operational oversight committee?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I can't speak for the Minister of Lands, so I suggest that the Member direct his question to the Minister of Lands on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: My last question. I'm surprised to see this government really not taking an active role in the responsibilities inherited on April 1, 2014. Let the listeners be judgmental of that come mid-term review next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I'll take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 339-18(2):
REGIONAL RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we heard the Minister of HR talk about the regional recruitment plan and he talked about a significant majority of the program participants are priority candidates under the Affirmative Action. Can he actually give us the number of the actual Affirmative Action candidates, please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Human Resources.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can.

---Laughter

Of the 39 applications that we received, 24 of them are P1 candidates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: That's great to hear. Does the Minister have any priority two candidates in this of the 39, and the number, please?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, we do. Of the 39, I said 24 were P1 candidates. Two are P2 candidates, and six have no priority.

MR. THOMPSON: Okay. I thank the Minister for his answer. When he talked about developing a communications plan or strategy, is there anything else the department is doing to fill these positions?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, well, communication plan is obviously very important, and, if there were folks out there that are interested in this particular type of training, as I said before in response to the questions from the Member from Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, that, you know, if they approach the department, I'm sure that we can work with them to see if they fit into any of the programs that we offer; and, as far as anything else besides communication, our conversation right now is also a good way of getting the message out there; and, hopefully those that have an interest in the public service are listening in; and, if there's opportunities for them, I would certainly encourage them to take the government up on the opportunities and the training that we do offer.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho to the Minister for his answer. This is starting to feel like, unfortunately, summer students and that. Does the Minister know how many vacant positions are available for this program, and he talked about 15 as the recruitment number, but how many are actually available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I don't know if this is anything like the Summer Student Program. I mean, we encourage the department through that program to try to take on as many summer students as they can, and that is the message that we will be passing on to the department before the next summer student season. As far as the number of vacant positions, I don't really know if there's a number of positions that are identified as regional recruitment positions. As I said before, I mean, we have 231 vacancies, and, as I said before, if there was any opportunities for some of these positions to be filled with those that want to go through the

Regional Recruitment Program, then we'll obviously have a look at that. But, as far as a set number goes where there's a quota, say we need 50, I don't think that number exists, but we'll continue to work with those that want to try and access the training that's offered by the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents, Minister of Justice.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 149-18(2):
27TH ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016 VICTIMS
ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled "27th Annual Report 2015-2016 Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

TABLED DOCUMENT 150-18(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LIQUOR
LICENSING BOARD 62ND ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 151-18(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LIQUOR
COMMISSION 62ND ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Northwest Territories Liquor Licensing Board 62nd Annual Report 2015-2016" and the "Northwest Territories Liquor Commission 62nd Annual Report 2015-2016." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Frame Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 152-18(2):
GNWT MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE, ENROLMENT
OF STUDENTS IN FRENCH FIRST LANGUAGE
EDUCATION PROGRAMS (2016)

TABLED DOCUMENT 153-18(2):
FRENCH AS A FIRST LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION
REGULATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 154-18(2):
YUKON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ADMISSION TO FRENCH FIRST LANGUAGE
SCHOOLS POLICY

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents I would like to table. The first one is the "Government of the Northwest Territories Ministerial Directive on Enrolment of Students in French First Language Education Programs (2016)." The second one, Mr. Speaker, is from the Yukon government. It's the French as a first language instruction regulation. Mr. Speaker, the third document I'd like to table is the "Yukon Government Admission to French First Language Schools Policy." Merci, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates 2017-2018, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to review Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates for 2017-2018.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does Committee agree?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We will review the document after a brief recess. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018. Does the Minister of Finance have any opening remarks?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. Proceed?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): You may proceed.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am here to present the capital estimates 2017-2018. The capital estimates 2017-2018 totals \$266 million, which includes \$28 million for community infrastructure investments. As in previous years, the capital estimates 2017-2018 do not include appropriations for housing infrastructure proposed by the NWT Housing Corporation.

The appropriation for these investments will be sought during the Legislative Assembly's review of the 2017-2018 Main Estimates. However, the NWT Housing Corporation's 2017-2018 capital estimates, which total \$24.3 million, is included in the capital estimates as an information item for review and comment.

Major highlights of the estimates include:

- \$93 million for health facility replacements and renovations, including funding required for the construction of the new Stanton Territorial Hospital project;
- \$76 million for highways, winter roads, bridges, and culverts across the NWT, this includes funding for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway and for highway projects submitted under the Building Canada Plan;
- \$28 million to continue to provide to community government for their infrastructure needs;
- \$23 million for new education facilities and renovation to existing facilities; and
- \$50 million to continue work on the new territorial female correctional centre in Fort Smith.

In addition, 2017-2018 community governments will also be receiving \$15.3 million in gas tax funding and \$28.9 million from the public transit infrastructure fund and the clean water and lake water fund. Included in the funding that is going to committee governments, total infrastructure spending in the NWT for 2017-2018 is therefore estimated to be approximately \$331 million. That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chair. I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are we agreed to begin with general comments? I apologize.

---Laughter.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): It has been a while since I have been in the Chair. Thank you,

Minister McLeod. We have agreed to begin with general comments. Would the Minister like to bring any witnesses into the Chamber?

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to my right, I have Mr. Paul Guy, who is the deputy minister of Public Works and Services. To my far right I have Jayleen Robertson, who is the assistant deputy minister of Public Works and Services. To my left, I have Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar, who is the deputy secretary to the Financial Management Board.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. I apologize. Minister?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you. I would like to correct myself. Jayleen is actually the assistant deputy minister of the Department of Transportation. My apologies.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. As I have stated, we have agreed to begin with opening comments. Are there any opening comments on the capital estimates? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. This is the first capital budget for a number of us. There will probably be a little bit of learning as we go through it. I had three issues that I wanted to raise in my opening remarks if I can.

The first issue is with regard to the proposed Department of Infrastructure. At least the way that the capital estimates have been laid out, there is this department of infrastructure, which is the proposed amalgamation of Public Works and Services and the Department of Transportation.

I will confess, Mr. Chair, as I was reading this on the weekend, it was probably too late, but I was reading this, and all of a sudden, I come across this section in here that says infrastructure, and I thought it was a different category of capital spending or something. I didn't realize that the two departments had been jammed together into one section here.

As this is only a proposal, I think it is inappropriate that they are amalgamated in this fashion in the capital budget. That is causing me some concern. In any event, I look forward to hearing from the Minister about how they can separate those two budgets and get us back to where we should be.

The second issue that I wanted to raise, Mr. Chair, is found on page 5 of the capital estimates. This is where there are projections of capital investments for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020. It's rather interesting that it's a declining projection of capital spending for the next three years. You know, this is not really what the Minister of Finance said was going to happen earlier, I should say last week in his fiscal update and through a series of questions. Certainly this MLA expected to see higher spending on capital projects over the next couple of years, because we've made the point that this \$150 million reduction target; that is Cabinet's doing, that's not supported on this side of the House, was going to lead to greater capital spending. But that's not what these estimates show. In fact, it's a reduction of capital spending over the next three years. So that's really not consistent with what the Minister promised in the House last week.

I think that's probably it for now, Mr. Chair. I do have some more specific questions about some of the projects in here. I had given the Minister heads up that I'll have some questions about spending within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for an Ecole Allain St-Cyr expansion.

I appreciate the fact that it's in here, but I have some questions about seeking some outside funding to help support that work. I'll also have some questions about the women's correctional centre that's being built in Fort Smith. That's it, Mr. Chair, for my opening remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. After each general comment, I'll allow time for the Minister to respond, and we'll proceed that way for the general comments. Once we get into the document more, we can have more of a back-and-forth discussion. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in the Department of Infrastructure, we had given committee a heads up a couple of times that this was the direction that we were heading. This capital estimates that we're debating during this session does not take effect until April 1st, and then the main estimates, when we'll have a further discussion on this, does take effect until April 1st.

I'm not sure if Members are suggesting that we separate the two, even though there is ongoing discussion about amalgamating the two or it's planned to amalgamate the two, but this is not something that we're going to be implementing a week after the capital estimates are approved. These are capital estimates that are going to take effect April 1st. We still have to go through the main estimates debate during the February-March session and things may change there as well.

The second one is the money that the Member said that I promised. Again, we have to go through the capital planning process for any potential savings and it would be premature for me to say that the money has been approved because we still have to go through the main estimates in February-March, where some of the savings that we have identified in going ahead are going to be taking place. So we still have to get that approved by the Legislative Assembly. So rather than being premature, we will probably realize some of the savings as we debate the capital plans for 2018-2019. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Next on my list, I have Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know that our government's capital spending is typically focused on transportation, and often a large project or two along with that. This current budget seems to fit that pattern and, as the Minister noted, the government proposes to spend about \$80 million on transportation projects and a bit more than that on the Stanton Territorial Hospital. These are all important projects for a variety of reasons. For me, it is all about better services and opportunities for residents of the Northwest Territories, whether that is health, a safer airport, or a new road into a community.

The government proposes to spend just shy of \$300 million on capital projects in 2017-2018, and I commend them for that. Besides being useful infrastructure, this spending creates jobs and business opportunities that are vital to a healthy economy and healthy communities. I'm not sure that every project meets the standard of delivering the biggest bang for our buck, but I will put comments on that aside until we deal with specific departments.

Another thing that concerns me is the lack of diversity in our capital spending. I would like to see our capital spending do more to help broaden our economy and reduce the future costs of living in the territory. Both of these goals are in the mandate we unanimously approved back in March. I would like to see our capital spending as closely aligned to the priorities in our mandate as possible in future.

Lastly, similar to my colleague, I am very concerned about one other thing. The capital estimates as they were tabled last week would have us consider investments for a department that does not exist. The Department of Infrastructure is proposed for next year as a merger of the Departments of Transportation and Public Works and Services. There is always a chance the merger will not happen. Until such time as it is approved in this House, we should be considering capital funding for

existing departments. Those are my general comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Would the Minister like to respond, remembering that there will be plenty of time for in-depth discussion on this when we get further into it? Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when you look at the projects that we've proposed for across the Northwest Territories, I believe every constituency and pretty well every community in the Northwest Territories is represented; \$298 million in infrastructure spending would go a long way to helping the communities, especially the smaller communities.

To me, that fits within our mandate. Some of the other projects we would like to see go ahead, and these are discussions we are having with the federal government as to some of the hydro projects, where we could reduce the cost of living. We want to be in a position where we can put a good case forward and match any funding that we may have to match.

So pretty well all the projects we have, I think, fit within our mandate, so we'll continue to do that work. I take the Member's comment on the Department of Infrastructure. As I said to the Member from Frame Lake, these are estimates for consideration that take effect on April 1st and, if things change between now and then, or during our main estimates debate, then we will make the necessary adjustments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone in the gallery for joining us for these proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience. Next on my list, I have Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments are similar to the previous two speakers. It's great to see a very healthy number here in capital spending. We talk about investment in our economy and our communities, making the North safer, creating real opportunities for business employment, infrastructure is a great way to go. This is a substantial investment in the Northwest Territories.

That being said, there are a number of issues with the long-term outlook of this investment. We've heard it before, that there will be more investment when time comes, and infrastructure investment is the best way to stimulate and develop the economy. Yet we do see a projected decline. Of course, we can debate that at the time, but it's important to consider the long-term plans of this

government over our term. That's something that's keenly on my mind, and entirely relevant to the debate we're having today.

I also share concerns about the presentation of the Department of Infrastructure ahead of its approval, especially when there are significant questions around the proposed amalgamation, placing it together, as this does not give Members an accurate picture of the investment of the two existing departments and the reporting structure as it currently exists.

I, too, have a number of specific concerns that I'll raise in the later sections of this document. But I guess I'll say, you know, I do applaud the government for putting forward such a substantial investment. However, we need to ensure that this investment continues throughout the course of this government and that we are doing everything we can, opportunities for savings that this government is committed to achieving? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Would the Minister like to respond?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member said his comments were in line with the previous speaker's, and I take his comments and we're here to listen to all the comments. Of course, our goal at the end of the day is to make an investment into the Northwest Territories so we can put people to work and improve the services and access to services, reduce the cost of living. Everything the Member spoke of, this government is committed to doing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Do we have any more general comments? Seeing no general comments, what is the wish of the committee, Mr. Beaulieu?

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to report progress at this time.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: May I have the report, Member for Hay River North.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018. I would like to report progress, and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the

Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do we have a seconder? Member from Deh Cho.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 22, third reading of bills. I understand that one of our Members is having a birthday today. I just want to recognize Mr. Michael Nadli's birthday today.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 23-18(2), Appointment of the Director of Human Rights (Mr. Blake)
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018
21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until October 18, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:05 p.m.