



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**18<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017**

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**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**

(Monfwi)

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(Great Slave)

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*Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

*Minister Responsible for Seniors*

*Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities*

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*Minister Responsible for the Status of Women*

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**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Mr. Herbert Nakimayak**

(Nunakput)

**Mr. Kevin O'Reilly**

(Frame Lake)

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(Hay River South)

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*Minister of Infrastructure*

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(Hay River North)

**Mr. Kieron Testart**

(Kam Lake)

**Mr. Shane Thompson**

(Nahendeh)

**Mr. Cory Vanthuynne**

(Yellowknife North)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>2745</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>2745</b>
210-18(2) – Continuing Care Services Action Plan (Abernethy) .....	2745
211-18(2) – Federal Funding for Infrastructure (Schumann).....	2746
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>2747</b>
Eulogy for Pat Bobinski (Simpson) .....	2747
Conclusion of Land Rights Agreements (Vanthuyne) .....	2748
Deep Water Port In Nunakput (Nakimayak).....	2748
Renewable Resources Officer Vacancy and Community Safety in Tsiigehtchic (Blake) .....	2749
Centralization of Long-Term Care Facilities (Nadli) .....	2749
Ecole St. Joseph School Capacity (Testart).....	2749
Arctic Energy Alliance Programs (O'Reilly).....	2750
Impacts of Sobering Centre on Yellowknife (Green).....	2751
Eulogy for Louis Tsetso (Thompson) .....	2751
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>2752</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>2752</b>
<b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>2763</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>2763</b>
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>2764</b>
Motion 36-18(2) – Extended Adjournment of the House to October 3, 2017 .....	2764
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>2764</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>2782</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>2783</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Tuesday, September 26, 2017****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 210-18(2):  
CONTINUING CARE SERVICES ACTION PLAN

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that later today I will be tabling the Continuing Care Services Action Plan. The Continuing Care Services Action Plan builds on the seven priorities of the 2014 Strategic Framework, Our Elders: Our Communities, and on our mandate commitment to take action so that NWT seniors can age in place and live in their own homes and communities for as long possible.

We are also committed to ensuring that adequate supports are available for those who can no longer do so. Furthermore, our mandate commits us to develop an action plan for enhanced home and community care and palliative care, and to propose a regulatory framework for long-term care. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to let you know that the Continuing Care Services Action Plan sets the foundation to deliver on all of these mandated commitments.

Our government values the importance of the wisdom, knowledge, and experience that seniors and elders bring to our communities. They provide the foundation for the rich cultural heritage and traditional knowledge that defines the unique character of the Northwest Territories. First and foremost, the Continuing Care Services Action Plan provides a road map to ensure elders and seniors remain in their homes as long as possible, allowing them to maintain their respected place within our communities, and contribute to our vision of community wellness.

The action plan also acknowledges that it is essential that we care for our elders who can no longer remain in their homes by making high-quality

long-term care services available. Whether they reside in their homes or in a long-term care facility, our government is committed to providing seniors and elders with the most responsive, culturally safe, and efficient health care possible.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that I have discussed the importance of supporting our seniors and elders in this House. It is a topic that residents have consistently indicated is a priority and that Members have supported action on. With this in mind, I would like to elaborate on our approach to structuring this important work

The Continuing Care Services Action Plan sets out five key objectives in moving our vision forward. Our first group of actions aims to optimize healthy aging so that seniors and elders can lead active and independent lives. The second objective is to improve home and community care and caregiver supports to sustain aging in place. The third set of actions will improve long-term care and equitable access to this essential care service. The fourth objective of the action plan focuses on enhancing palliative care, providing NWT residents with options, dignity, comfort, and access to palliative care when and where they need it. Finally, the fifth objective demands that we strive to provide culturally safe and high-quality continuing care across the continuum of services.

This action plan recognizes that we are most successful when we work collaboratively as a government, community, and non-profit partners. Working with groups such as the NWT Recreation and Parks Association, Aurora College, the NWT Association of Communities, the NWT Seniors Society, and the Alzheimer's Society enables us to achieve greater outcomes than working alone. Many activities within the action plan require us to partner with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, we are looking forward to working closely with those departments and partners to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for seniors and elders.

The Continuing Care Services Action Plan will guide the initiatives required to ensure that seniors and elders are given the best possible opportunity to age in their place of choice. This action plan works to achieve the Department of Health and Social Services vision and goals of Best Health,

Best Care, for a Better Future, strengthens our vision of healthy communities and puts into action our mandate goals and priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Infrastructure.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 211-18(2):  
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, infrastructure investments help connect residents to essential services, lower the cost of living, increase our resiliency to the impacts of climate change, and support economic development. Today, I want to provide Members an update on priority infrastructure projects being pursued by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017 the Government of Canada announced its Investing in Canada Plan, which includes over \$180 billion in infrastructure investments over 12 years. The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to work with our federal counterparts to receive more information on new federal funding programs and to identify opportunities that will benefit our territory.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> the Government of the Northwest Territories received a letter from the federal Minister of Infrastructure outlining our territory's allocation under four funding streams being administered by Infrastructure Canada. These streams include investments in green infrastructure that supports the territory's commitments to the environment, including those under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change; Public Transit infrastructure; Community, Culture and Recreation infrastructure; and Rural and Northern Communities infrastructure streams that support wide-ranging infrastructure priorities such as local roads, food security, and broadband connectivity.

Also included under the Rural and Northern Communities stream is the Arctic Energy Fund for projects supporting more efficient and reliable energy in Canada's North. This fund will provide \$175 million to the Northwest Territories, which will be used to implement actions under the Government of the Northwest Territories' new Energy Strategy to be finalized in the new year.

In this letter, the federal Minister indicated the Government of Canada would be initiating negotiations on bilateral agreements for this funding with the goal of concluding negotiations by March 2018 at the latest. The Government of the NWT has already begun working to draft an initial list of infrastructure projects that could benefit from this funding and match these projects to the different

federal funding streams. Infrastructure priorities will include those already identified under the Mandate of this 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. The Government of the Northwest Territories will have to be strategic to maximize opportunities, and we look forward to working with Regular Members as we work for the benefit of all Northerners.

In addition to the programs announced by Infrastructure Canada, there is a series of other national programs that have been announced by the federal government, including those that address social infrastructure such as housing, education, and long-term care. The Government of the Northwest Territories is awaiting further details.

While we are making progress to advance priorities like the National Trade Corridors Fund and Low Carbon Economy Fund, Mr. Speaker, small jurisdictions like the NWT are playing catch-up and require basic highway infrastructure to connect our communities and provide opportunities for economic growth. That is why our government made a commitment in its mandate to capture opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure by working to secure funding for the Mackenzie Valley highway, make an all-weather road to Whati, and improve access to the Slave Geological Province. These projects were identified as top priorities for Northwest Territories residents during engagement sessions for the Government of the Northwest Territories' 25-year Transportation Strategy released in 2016, which included an online survey, stakeholder interviews, and public meetings in all regional centres. These investments will connect residents to new social and employment opportunities, reduce the cost of living in the territory, increase our resiliency and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and provide better access to natural resources.

Consistent with this commitment, the Department of Infrastructure has submitted two expressions of interest to Transport Canada under the National Trade Corridors Fund for the Slave Geological Province Access Corridor and Mackenzie Valley Highway projects.

Projects under the National Trade Corridors Fund are intended to support the flow of goods and passengers and increase economic development. The program is merit-based, with up to \$400 million of this funding being dedicated to transportation projects in the three territories.

The expression of interests phase represents a first step in a longer project approval process. Project proposals sent to Transport Canada under the National Trade Corridors Fund will also be shared with the Canada Infrastructure Bank, which allows for an opportunity to fund these projects under the bank instead. The infrastructure bank will focus on

large, transformative, revenue-generating projects, which could potentially include the Slave Geological Province Access Corridor and Taltson Hydro Expansion Project. It is expected that the infrastructure bank will be operational by the end of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently very early in the process for developing these projects. Federal funding will allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to advance to the next steps, which include additional planning and engineering work, environmental activities supporting the protection of wildlife such as caribou, and engagements with stakeholders, including Aboriginal governments and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has also submitted an initial proposal for funding under the Low Carbon Economy Fund towards a number of programs that will help reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions in different sectors of the Northwest Territories' economy. Government of the Northwest Territories staff met with officials from Environment and Climate Change Canada in August to discuss this draft proposal, and we anticipate submitting a formal proposal by mid-October. Funding received under this fund would support the implementation of the Government of the Northwest Territories' commitments under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change and Clean Growth.

Significant and meaningful investment in Northwest Territories infrastructure is needed. Creating the North our people want and need means working together with many partners, Canada, Indigenous governments, community governments, the Legislative Assembly, businesses and industry, to create and implement a clear plan for investing in our people in the long term.

On September 21<sup>st</sup> I met with other federal, provincial, and territorial Ministers in Ottawa to discuss early results and the next phase of the Investing in Canada Plan. This meeting provided a significant opportunity for jurisdictions to share their infrastructure priorities and discuss how federal funding programs can help maximize the benefits of these projects.

We will continue to keep Members apprised of the progress of submissions under the National Trade Corridors Fund and the Low Carbon Economy Fund and any other federal programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Hay River North.

## Members' Statements

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGY FOR PAT BOBINSKI

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Pat Bobinski, who passed away this summer at the age of 77. He was a resident of Hay River for over 50 years, but I would wager there is at least one person in every single community in the territory whose life he personally impacted in a positive way.

Those who only know of him may know him as "Mr. Biathlon." That is because, by most accounts, biathlon would not exist in the Northwest Territories without Pat. There would not be biathletes from Fort Smith to Paulatuk and everywhere in between, let alone representing the NWT at the Olympics. For his impact on sport, Biathlon Canada presented him with the June Hooper Award in 2010, which is given annually to one person in Canada who has contributed significantly to the growth and development of the sport with years of service, dedication, and unstinting devotion. However, Mr. Speaker, his impressive contributions to biathlon only touch on his true legacy.

They are a consequence of what truly defined him and what those who knew him will remember him by; his utter selflessness and his devotion to helping others. Of course, this could be seen through his volunteer work with sport, the endless hours of one-on-one coaching in a variety of supports, his work with the ski club, the shooting club, the track and field championships, NWT Biathlon, and so on, and of course in the countless miles he traveled doing this work.

However, his volunteerism extended well beyond sports. He served on the board of many volunteer associations, was a justice of the peace for four decades, a volunteer firefighter, and generally would be wherever he was needed. He never sought the limelight, but his contributions did not go unnoticed. A few of the many, many rewards he received include the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award, the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Elder Award, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and numerous national and regional awards for sports.

He also received the Commissioner's and the Governor General's Award for Bravery, which he received for challenging the Hay River's severely flooded west channel to evacuate stranded residents in 1985. Alone, in total darkness, he paddled his canoe amid fast-moving ice floes and other debris in search of victims. Plucking people from their perches, he assisted them to the extra boat he had tied to the rear of his canoe. Time after time, he braved the swirling water until he had satisfied himself that all the residents of the west

channel had been accounted for and evacuated. I told somebody that story today. They responded, "Yeah, that sounds like Pat." He was one of a kind and will truly be missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Our condolences to the family and also to the region, as well. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONCLUSION OF LAND RIGHTS AGREEMENTS

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about the completion of negotiations on land rights, resources, and self-government. We committed in our mandate to finalize these agreements, and we recognize that without their completion many of our other priority goals will be stymied or may not even be achievable.

Mr. Speaker, it is a discussion that has been going on for a lifetime, and its importance is not diminishing over time. In fact, it is growing in urgency. Since the last election, Mr. Speaker, this issue has been raised in every constituency meeting that I have had so far. All Northerners know the importance of completing these agreements on land rights. They know how much depends on fair and thorough negotiation and resolution of these issues, and like all of us in this House, they want to see this job done. They want certainty.

We know that the NWT is seen as a favourable place to invest in exploration. Recent numbers regarding staking and the positive uptake in the mineral incentive program show us that. We know that we are developing recreational land use plans. We want to move ahead with developments in agriculture, forestry, and alternative energies. We know that our tourism sector is booming, but many of these initiatives can be slowed down or brought to a complete halt unless we resolve the issues of land rights.

That said, Mr. Speaker, we also know it is a complex and detailed job. My insistence that we must make progress in these negotiations indicates no lack of respect and appreciation for those charged with the task. It is fair to say it has been a challenge facing public government. It is fair to say it is the biggest challenge facing public governance in our territory, but as I said earlier, it has been going on for a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, in the last sitting the Premier rose in the Assembly and provided us with an update of the many different folders in this file. It was encouraging to hear the many fronts on which progress was being made, but now we are just two years away from the next election. Mr. Speaker, the

18<sup>th</sup> Assembly made a commitment to see real progress, even completion on these negotiations.

Our window to achieve real progress is growing more and more narrow. The Northwest Territories and its people are ready to move on and build their future. It is time we helped them get there. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEEP WATER PORT IN NUNAKPUT

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Northwest Passage gains a greater international profile and becomes more frequently travelled, the Northwest Territories would be in a better position to benefit if it had a deep water port in Tuktoyaktuk or Ulukhaktok.

Just as the name suggests, a deep water port can be accessed from a large body of water such as the Beaufort Sea, along with a protected docking and staging for large heavily loaded vessels. Deep water allows for more efficient handling of cargo because large ships can dock at the port and take on cargo directly rather than anchoring out in the harbour and using smaller vessels to transfer cargo.

Marine support will be crucial for offshore exploration and development. A deep water port in the Beaufort Sea would support drilling activity. It would attract tourism, support cargo shipping. It could serve as a first line of defence in the event of a blowout or an oil spill. It could also provide sewage facilities for shipping to prevent illegal dumping from polluting our waters.

Building key infrastructure would send a message to businesses that the GNWT welcomes investment and is prepared to work with businesses to build the necessary infrastructure. Northern residents and local businesses would have a direct opportunity to profit from offshore activity. Mr. Speaker, building a deep sea port would be a large-scale undertaking that would require careful analysis and planning. The GNWT is getting more experience with these types of projects, and could even look at doing this as a public/private partnership. A great deal of work would need to be done to make this project happen, including undertaking necessary environmental assessments, considering design options, and securing the necessary funding.

Mr. Speaker, with funding from CANOR and the GNWT, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation commissioned a study in 2014 which identified key considerations regarding development of the



harbour in Tuktoyaktuk to support the maritime activity in the Beaufort Sea.

In 2018 the Government of Nunavut is set to begin construction on Iqaluit's \$85 million deep sea port, which is slated to be fully operational by 2020. The federal government has committed to contribute \$63.7 million to this mega-project. Mr. Speaker, these things make me believe that a deep sea port for the Northwest Territories could become a reality in the foreseeable future. We just need to dream big, collaborate with our partners, and commit to making it happen. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
RENEWABLE RESOURCES OFFICER VACANCY  
AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the community of Tsiigehtchic is hopeful that, in the near future, they will have a resident in our renewable resource officer to turn to in emergencies. Up until now, we have had to place calls to Inuvik, then wait for staff from Inuvik or Fort MacPherson to visit the community. In the past, that worked for Tsiigehtchic, but now the situation has changed.

Wild animals are entering the community. Just last month, wolves came into town and attacked and killed two dogs. In a separate incident, wolves also approached other residents. We have also seen bears entering the community. Mr. Speaker, fortunately, no people have been hurt, but residents are worried. Our wild visitors typically turn up in the early morning and in the evenings, when children are out walking, and it is harder to get a hold of an officer.

Mr. Speaker, I was very excited to hear that ENR is introducing a new position for the community, from part-time to full-time. I will leave that there because I don't want to comment on an open job competition. Instead, my concern right now is the safety of the community until the position is filled. I will have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT FOR  
CENTRALIZATION OF LONG-TERM CARE  
FACILITIES

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the NWT, healthcare services for seniors are classified according to the level of care required by the patients. This ranges from homecare and

supported living to long-term care for elders with complex needs.

The Deh Gah Got'ie senior's home in Fort Providence isn't really part of that spectrum. Although it has been renovated in the past, it is designed for independent living. It is meant for people who do not require regular support at all. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health and Social Services and the NWT Housing Corporation visited the facility during a recent tour. To address this, Fort Providence leaders want a long-term facility established in our community. It might be made capable of providing that care.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, the department intends to regionalize long-term care. That means beds are centred at larger facilities in larger communities, and that in small communities elders have to move. The department argues that community based long-term care is impossible, that economies of scale work against us, that it simply cannot be done.

I have seen the numbers, Mr. Speaker. I know how many beds we need, and how much it would cost to build and operate them. I know why the department favours regionalization, but I need you to understand why I cannot support that argument, because it smacks of the residential school experience, Mr. Speaker.

Under the residential school system, the state used its power to split First Nations communities and families and force First Nations children from their homes. Now, the government tells us, our elders, that if they want to place in long-term care, they must leave their communities, their families, and their homes. Even if the department does not intend this comparison, they must still understand how their decisions are experienced in the communities. Money might be saved, but it is saved on the backs of First Nations, people uprooted from their homes.

This government has committed to prioritizing aging in place and to fulfill the TRC's calls to action, and the regionalization of long-term care is inconsistent with those calls to action. There must be a solution that does not repeat the wounds of the residential school system. There is no other option that I could accept. Masi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ECOLE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CAPACITY

**MR. TESTART:** Mr. Speaker, it is a great thing that students of Yellowknife have a variety of choices when pursuing their educational goals. Whether Yellowknife Education District No. 1, Yellowknife Catholic schools, or at the Commission scolaire

francophone Territoires du Nord-Ouest. All these schools are amazing places of learning, and officials at the Department of Education, Culture and Employment have done a great job providing support to the Yellowknife schools, but today I want to talk about a school in my constituency that is dealing with an ongoing problem that has a simple situation. That school is Ecole St. Joseph's School.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment has determined the number of students needed to put the school at 100 per cent capacity is 581. In the current school year, Ecole St. Joseph School currently has 571 students enrolled, putting them at 97 per cent capacity. If current student population remains the same, then we can project next school year will be at 102 per cent capacity, and the following year at 103 per cent capacity. This clearly indicates we have an overcrowding problem at St. Joseph's, and need to resolve it immediately before it starts to effect the educational standards students and parents expect from St. Joe's; the largest primary school in the Northwest Territories.

This has been a point of discussion between the Minister and Yellowknife Catholic Schools for over three years, and the main suggestion that has come from the Minister was to share space with Yellowknife District No. 1. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, this is an unacceptable outcome to everyone involved, and in the long run will not solve the lack of space at St. Joseph's.

Mr. Speaker, I'll admit I'm confused about the Minister's plan and how it will be a cost-saving measure. If these students are to be attending Ecole St. Joseph, then obviously they will still have to be using space. Or will they be counted as not attending Ecole St. Joseph, but rather attending whatever public school they are situated in, except for the Yellowknife Catholic Schools' curriculum? I suppose this means we'll have to transport students to and from wherever these spare classrooms are located. This plan is confusing, it's unfair to both students and teachers who want to attend Ecole St. Joseph and have chosen that school for their students' futures.

Instead of pursuing this convoluted scheme any further, let's invest in the students of Ecole St. Joseph in the most practical way and purchase some modular classroom facilities. There is space for them on school grounds, Yellowknife Catholic School Board and parents are resoundingly supportive of this solution, and it just makes sense.

Mr. Speaker, let's do what's best for students and begin the process of purchasing modulars that can be in place next year before Ecole St. Joseph School is officially over 100 per cent capacity and

we have to start stacking students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ARCTIC ENERGY ALLIANCE PROGRAMS

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. The Arctic Energy Alliance is our NWT-grown centre of energy excellence. The alliance offers a suite of programs tailored to our energy use needs. Over the years it has developed made-in-the-NWT programs for energy use planning to improve energy efficiency and the use of the alternative energies for commercial and residential users. These programs help reduce our cost of living, benefit the environment through reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and create local jobs.

Like many organizations with good programming in areas of high demand, the alliance is a victim of its own success. I've learned from constituents that the limited funds devoted to the Alternative Energy Technologies Program and Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program were fully subscribed by the end of June this year, and that there is already a waiting list of clients hoping to receive funding with more than six months left in the year. These programs support the introduction of commercially available clean energy technologies to reduce fuel use and demonstrate the viability of renewable energy technologies. Funding support varies between \$2,500 and \$32,000 for residential and business projects, depending on whether the applicants are in communities with hydroelectricity or in thermal power and off-grid locations. Ordinarily, the alliance would have some ability to re-profile funds across its various programs, but that uptake on all programs has been strong and there is apparently not much from other programs to re-profile to renewables.

This raises a couple of issues. First, when programs run out by the end of the first quarter we obviously have a good program that needs to be better resourced. As Regular Members had requested during the last budget stalemate, I'm calling on the Minister to re-profile funds in 2017-2017 so the Alliance can approve applications on its waiting list and publicize the availability of funds for those who knew no funds were available so didn't bother to apply.

Most importantly, we need to ramp up our funding for programs that get us off fossil fuels. The government warns of increased cost of living resulting from carbon pricing. These programs by the Arctic Energy Alliance can help with that. The federal government will be introducing a program to

offset introduction of carbon pricing; we should advantage of that and not roll back our funding. I'll have questions for the Minister later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
IMPACTS OF SOBERING CENTRE ON  
YELLOWKNIFE

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, social issues are again top of mind for Yellowknife residents, according to a recent survey by the city. This is especially true for people like me and my family who live downtown. On our street, we see public intoxication and the negative behaviour that comes with it on an almost daily basis; that includes an attempted break-in by an intoxicated person this summer that frightened us when it happened and cost us thousands of dollars in repairs to the doors and doorframe.

Have we thought about moving to a different part of the city? You bet, but we're staying put and here's why. The City of Yellowknife and the GNWT are finally making a serious effort to tackle social issues downtown. The city is funding a street outreach program that has already provided more than a thousand rides to people who are intoxicated in the downtown core. I've called the outreach service myself because I've been concerned about people stumbling down the street. The van has arrived promptly to offer them a ride to a safe place. Mr. Speaker, I commend the City of Yellowknife for funding this service and the people who staff the program.

One of the primary destinations for the street outreach van was the temporary sobering centre located at the Yellowknife arena. Once it opened in July it helped hundreds of people by providing a barebones but safe place to sleep off intoxication. Mr. Speaker, this is how harm reduction works. It acknowledges a problem and provides a constructive solution that is client-focused. I commend the GNWT for providing this service and the staff who work on the front line.

I congratulate the government for finding a long-term location for the sobering centre. It's downtown, and downtown is where it needs to be. There's no use putting it where the people aren't; they won't use it, and the other harm reduction measures won't count for anything, either. It's better to have the centre where it will be used, where clients can access programming, housing, and other supports in the area. For residents and businesses who are unhappy with the new location, I ask you to be patient.

These two initiatives, the street outreach program and the sobering centre, have not only met the safety needs of intoxicated people, they have made the downtown a more hospitable place for the rest of us. That doesn't mean all the problems downtown have been solved, but there has been a noticeable improvement. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
EULOGY FOR LOUIS TSETSO

**MR. THOMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about a constituent who recently passed away, Mr. Louis Tsetso. Louis was born in 1957 and spent his entire life in and around Fort Simpson.

Louis was a man of the land. He loved spending as much time as he could on the land. His most desired activity was the spring hunt. He was avid about being on the land in the springtime when everything came to life. His brother George will tell you this was the joy of his life.

Beyond his love for nature, Louis was a craftsman. He has made traditional puzzles composed of 10 pieces or more. These skills were passed down to Louis by elders in his family, which originated with his ancestors. Louis was a quiet and simple man. Although he was most likely to keep to himself, his close friends knew him as a man who loved practical jokes and to make people laugh.

While growing up, Louis's generous mother would keep her doors open and welcome anybody from the community into her kitchen for a bite to eat. Louis's sister had a cat, and one day Louis decided to remove all the labels from her cat food. Louis also made sure no other food products consumed by humans were labelled, and by the end of the night the cat food was gone. Louis created pleasant memories like this for everyone to look back on and laugh.

Louis is survived by his brothers, Antoine, Ricky, George, and Richard; his sister Caroline, Judee, Suza, Hilda, Stella, and his stepsister Nancy. He will be sadly missed by the family and members alike. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Our condolences to the family and also to the region as well. Members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. SPEAKER:** Colleagues I'd like to draw your attention to the visitors in the gallery. We have Chief Ernest Betsina here with us today, and also Paulatuk mayor Ray Ruben. I'd like to say welcome to our proceedings. Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize recently re-elected Chief Ernest Betsina. He is also a fellow hockey player. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to also recognize Chief Ernest Betsina. He is the chief of one of the communities that I represent, Ndilo. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Yellowknife North constituent and long-time Yellowknife YK1 board member, Al Short. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nunakput.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the Inuvialuktun interpreter and constituent from Ulukhaktok, Ms. Annie Goose, and also the mayor of Paulatuk, Ray Ruben. You will see them around Yellowknife. Also, Chief Ernest Betsina. They are long-time high school buddies, and it is good to see them hanging out, at the levels that they are, and working together. Welcome to the both of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, acknowledgments. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 877-18(2):

CONDITION OF HIGHWAY 1 AND HIGHWAY 7

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past summer I had to opportunity to travel on about 92 per cent of the all-weather roads in the southern part of the NWT. This works out to be about 1,155 kilometers. Some of the roads were in great shape, better than others. As I traveled, I noticed a number of concerns I would like to address with the Minister for Infrastructure today.

Mr. Speaker, on Highway No. 1, from approximately kilometre 205 to 220, I noticed that the staff from Fort Providence were doing their regular maintenance this section of the chipseal. It is the last section of chipseal before it merges into the gravel section of the highway. I have to give them credit. They did a great job. Unfortunately, three days later as I came across the section again, it was in bad shape. It was very rough, to say the least, and I have heard that from a number of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please advise this House what the department is going to do with this section of road? Are they going to replace it with this EZ Street product that is on Highway No. 3, redo the chipseal, or return it back to gravel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister for Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the Member for noticing the efforts the department has put into the system across the Northwest Territories. However, as the Member said, this is a very difficult section of highway. We continue to monitor it and work on it. The short-term maintenance that we are doing on it, trying to improve this thing, is starting to pay off, but that is not a long-term fix. We are going to continue to look at doing that. The department will be undertaking a multi-year rehabilitation on this part of the road for this project, to improve the drainage in particular in that area and also widen and strengthen the existing grade.

Moving forward, though, in 2018-2019, we are going to continue to spend \$3.5 million on Highway No. 1 to widen and reconstruct and improve drainage and do these sorts of things on kilometer 207 to 212, and we will continue to do that. We could also take up the Member's comments and look at maybe reverting this back to gravel until we can get the reconstruction and improvements required that can be able to have chipseal that would last for a longer term.

He made mention to a test section on this section of highway. We are also monitoring this section -- it is actually called Allcrete -- to determine if this new form of road stabilization could be something that we could use in the long term to find a solution to that section.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that information. My residents will surely enjoy that. Mr. Speaker, as I was driving on this highway, close to Bouvier Creek there is a sign that says "turn," and then, as you are turning, there is another sign that says "slow down to 70 km/hr." We are getting used to it, but a lot of tourists are not. Will the Minister

look at this and actually revert the signs to show that you have to slow down as you are turning?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you for bringing that to my attention. We will have the department have a look at this thing and make sure it is meeting the Transportation Association of Canada signage standards, because there is a set of standards that are laid out there for placement of signs, and we will make sure that this is reflected on where they are posted on the highway.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for looking into that. As I was driving down the roads, I also noticed that there are certain sections where the grass was creeping up onto the roads and causing a little bit of poor sight where wildlife can cut in front of you, but then other sections were clear. Can the Minister advise the House what the policy is as it pertains to clearing the ditches and, if they have a schedule for the various roads and, if he could share it with us?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, the department conducts brushing across the system on a cycled basis, and we usually do one third of the system every year. Last year, we did 1,300 hectares of brushing, mulching, and mowing, and this was completed across the system. We continue to do that on an annual basis, and we will continue that work moving forward.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answer. I hope he can still share it with us so that we can help our residents know what is going on. The last part of the Highway No. 1 is the section to Wrigley. There are a number of spots that have limited line of sight there. As well, there are some nice little bits of roller coaster rides. If you want to go on a roller coaster ride, you can go on that road to Wrigley. You guys, we could switch roads, I can tell you that. Can the Minister please advise us what the department is going to do with those sections of roads that are safety issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I said, we do probably one third of the complete system annually, on an annual basis. This improves sight lines, but also improves drainage along the whole system. I know Highway No. 1 on that particular section of highway going to Wrigley; most of it was mowed this year, so if the Member can actually sit down with me and give me some specifics on sight lines of concern, I can certainly have the department look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 878-18(2):  
UPDATE ON SOBERING CENTRE

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. As I pointed out in my statement, since the launch of the Yellowknife street outreach program, there has been a noticeable improvement in conditions downtown, not to mention a reduction in the costly use of both ambulance and hospital services. The city has announced its intention to continue the R.I.D.E. program while the new sobering centre location is renovated and opened. Can the Minister provide us an update on the new sobering centre? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member indicated, we have a long-term solution for the sobering centre here in Yellowknife. The building does have to go through some renovations. On September 25<sup>th</sup> the Yellowknife City Council actually approved a proposal for the use of the new building for the sobering centre and a day shelter. This proposal allows us to actually continue our planning for the number of renovations that are required on that site. The department and the city are actively working with partners right now to find interim location while renovations are completed. In order to ensure that no opportunities are missed, we are working with the city right now to issue a public appeal for potential space that could accommodate the program in the short term.

**MS. GREEN:** Of course, I look forward to hearing the results of that call for interest. As I mentioned, the City of Yellowknife has stepped up and put their dollars behind the effort to reduce drunkenness and help people in need. It is worth knowing that analysis shows that the majority of people being served actually come from places other than Yellowknife, so this is truly a pan-territorial problem, and yet it is the Yellowknife ratepayers who are facing the tax hike this year to help pay for these services. My question for the Minister is whether the GNWT will increase its contribution to the operation and delivery of the street outreach program where it is a territorial program.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, we are committing significant funds to the operation of a sobering centre here in Yellowknife as well as the day shelter, recognizing that, yes, many of the individuals who are utilizing those programs have moved to Yellowknife from different locations. Yellowknife is the home for many of those people now, and many of them have moved from different locations. We are contributing significant dollars,

which is now part of our core funding, moving forward.

**MS. GREEN:** I appreciate the Minister's commitment to the day shelter and sobering centre expenses. I am wondering if he will include, in the next business plan, an increase in the contribution to the operation and delivery of the street outreach program.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, we have worked collaboratively with the city on a number of different initiatives. They have been partners with us throughout this whole process. They have taken on the responsibility of the Safe Ride Program. We have taken on the responsibility of the sobering centre. This is costing us right now about \$1.4 million, to do the sobering centre and day shelter here in Yellowknife. Those funds are, as I have indicated, already core funding. We are not at this point planning to provide additional funds to the city for their Safe Ride Program, but we will continue to provide the location that many of the clients of the Safe Ride Program will go to.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister. Of course, the Minister is aware that the sobering centre is a harm reduction facility and a further harm reduction measure is a proposed managed alcohol program, which we have talked about in this House before. Are there any plans to introduce a managed alcohol program now that there is a permanent location for the sobering centre? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, many times in this House I have indicated that, once we get a sobering centre up and running, what I have indicated previously is that we will need about a year to get it up, running, make sure the program is running effectively before we actually move forward with the concept of a managed alcohol program. We have not been up and running yet. As soon as we are up and running for awhile, we will see how things are going. We will make necessary tweaks to make sure that the programming is effective and efficient. We are definitely open to exploring the possibilities of a managed alcohol program at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

QUESTION 879-18(2):  
DEEP SEA PORT IN NUNAKPUT

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke of the possibility of the possibility of a deep sea port in Nunakput, and my

questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, my first question is: has the Minister reviewed the base for the Beaufort report? I would like to know what is being done with this information at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Infrastructure has reviewed the report in detail. The information that is in that report builds on past studies conducted by the department to investigate the potential of a deep sea port in Tuktoyaktuk, and that work is ongoing. The Tuktoyaktuk Harbour has long been a supply base for the Beaufort Sea, as many of us know. The future of opportunities is very promising going forward now with the MTS up and running. The study has supported marine planning undertaken by the Department of Health and formed a list of potential marine infrastructure projects that could be pursued possibly under the allocation of the money we are going to get from the federal Oceans Protection Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I appreciate the response. It is good to see that things look promising. I know on the other side of the Northwest Passage they are making plans to start construction of a deep sea port. It would be good to have something on the western side of the Northwest Passage.

Mr. Speaker, my second question to the Minister is: has any further consultation or collaboration taken place with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation about the viability of a deep sea port in the Beaufort?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Since the publication of the report, the Department of Infrastructure has continued to gather information and research them from a variety of sources on the potential of a port and service centre in Tuktoyaktuk. We will continue to do that, incorporating this into our marine planning work as we move forward.

The harbour, like I said, is well-suited. There is a lot of supporting infrastructure that has been left there from the old oil boom days with the Dome Petroleum and the Gulf Resource properties that lie there. There are leftover docks, camp facilities, the existing fuel storage that is there; so there is a lot of potential there. We will continue to look at all these things moving forward, and the Government of Northwest Territories remains open to discussing the feasibility and the needs of marine improvements in the Community of Tuktoyaktuk, along with the IRC and other stakeholders as required, moving forward.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I appreciate the response. It is good to see some progress on this. At least looking

forward we can ride on the momentum of the completion of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway to advocate for some deep sea services in the Beaufort region, more particularly in Tuktoyaktuk and, as well, some possible dumping sites and docking services in communities like Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister is: what will it take to secure a political commitment for this project, and will Cabinet be looking at the viability of doing this as a P3 project?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The Department of Infrastructure has identified the marine service centre for the community of Tuktoyaktuk that builds upon existing harbour infrastructure, as I have said, and the community. In its list of priorities, marine infrastructure could be funded under the Oceans Protection Plan, which I have mentioned. At this time, we continue to engage with the federal officials on funding opportunities and the criteria under this plan, as these details have not all been worked out yet.

As we know, there is growing interest in the Northwest Passage; it is anticipated to increase traffic. We will have to put more federal interest in developing a marine infrastructure, possibly in Tuktoyaktuk, along with other key marine developments that we have been working on with the department and discussing going back and forth. We will continue to do that. Along with the new Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik Highway, which is opening this year, this will open opportunities, I believe, for the community of Tuktoyaktuk on this.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

QUESTION 880-18(2):  
CENTRALIZATION OF LONG-TERM CARE  
FACILITIES

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke on the need for senior care facilities in communities. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Can the Minister identify how many residents of Northwest Territories long-term care facilities are living in a community other than their home community? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that information at my fingertips. I will commit to getting that information to the Member and committee. Thank you.

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, earlier, the Minister unveiled plans for senior care facilities. Besides

that, does the department have a policy to ensure that elders will be able to access long-term care services as close as possible to their home community?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, earlier today I talked about the Continuing Care Action Plan. It is a priority of this government to help our elders and our seniors age in place or as close to their homes as possible. There are a number of activities that we are pursuing to provide supports to elders as they age so that they can stay in their homes. If they are unable to stay in their homes for safety situations or concerns, we are hoping to be able to support them through the Housing Corporation and other partners in independent living units in many of our communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

One of our last resorts, Mr. Speaker, is long-term care. Recognizing that long-term care facilities are level 3/4 facilities where individuals cannot live independently, they need full-time, 24/7 care. It has always been this way. Long-term care facilities are located at regional centres. The reason they are in regional centres is because that is where physician positions are located. We need to be able to ensure that the residents of these long-term care facilities are receiving fully competent, safe services in communities where physicians are located. We do not provide long-term care facilities in many of our smaller communities, where we cannot provide that level of safety and care.

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, how are our elders who have had to leave their homes for long-term care provided with additional support in ways that respect their culture and unique needs? For example, receiving services in their language if they're unilingual, being able to eat traditional foods, and being able to regularly visit with their families.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** In many of our facilities where we have commercial kitchens we have had difficulty providing a service of traditional foods, but this is one of the things we are working on in the Department of Health and Social Services, is to find mechanisms to ensure that individuals are getting traditional foods. We are always able to bring traditional foods in and cook them in the shared kitchens as opposed to the commercial kitchens. In many of our facilities we do have interpreters who can provide language services to those who are unilingual, and where they don't we try to make sure that there are other mechanisms.

As far as the ability for our clients or our residents who are living in one of our regional centres to travel back to the communities, it really depends on their acuity, how ill they are or what limitations they have on mobility. One of the reasons many people

move to long-term care facilities is they are not capable of mobility or not capable of taking care of themselves.

I can say it happens on a regular basis; we do have people who are able to visit communities for short periods of times with different supports. This is something we have been able to facilitate with the proviso that depends really on the acuity of the patient and whether or not they have mobility capability in any capacity.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently the Minister tabled the Continuing Care Services Action Plan. Is that plan, the continuing care services, a regional or community action plan? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, it's a holistic plan focused on helping residents stay in their communities and their homes for as long as possible. That's at the very smallest community to the largest centre. If we have individuals in Yellowknife who want to stay in their homes for as long as possible, this plan is to help support them stay there. If we have residents in some of our smallest communities like Colville Lake or Tsiigehtchic, this plan is intended to help those elders stay in their communities and the regions for as long as possible, until it's not safe for them to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 881-18(2):  
SMALL COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was listening to one of the Members talk about a Small Community Employment Program. I have questions for the Minister of Education on that. Can the Minister tell the House today what the purpose of the Small Community Employment Program is? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That focus is to create employment in our small communities across the Northwest Territories, as well as work on developing training opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise why the decision was made to go beyond the small communities with this program?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As you know, on April 1, 2017, there were significant enhancements to that program, with an influx of an extra \$3 million. We made some changes to the program; part of that was actually looking at communities that weren't eligible before, and I'll say it again, these communities that were ineligible to apply for funding were Behchoko, Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, and Norman Wells.

As Members of this House do know, we have seen a downturn in the economy, and I think this is an opportunity to work with other communities that weren't eligible for this fund previously to offer those types of employment opportunities, as well offer some type of training for organizations and/or residents who might have lost jobs because of the downturn in the economy. I think it's a great step moving forward to ensure the training and employment is there in all of our communities.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of what the distribution of employment rates is across the NWT's small communities, regional centres, and Yellowknife?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I do. As I mentioned, the economy has taken a downturn; we do have more unemployed people in some of the communities, and I want to make sure that we focus on giving them every opportunity to get employment as well as develop their training and their skills.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a small community employment program was put in place because we have communities with employment rates below 50 per cent, below 40 per cent, some below 30 per cent, those are small communities. The communities that were added are communities that have employment rates at 60 and 70 per cent. We're trying to address employment where employment is needed most.

Why did the Minister not advise us in committee on the change that they're expanding the Small Community Employment Program, which was designed and put in place to increase employment in small communities where it's needed most? Expanding it into communities where employment rates are high, why did the Minister not advise us of that move?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned, on April 1, 2017, we did get a significant increase in that funding, and prior years the funding that we did have in place wasn't fully utilized. With this increased funding I thought it would be a great opportunity to reach out to more communities to



offer that type of training, skill development, as well as increase employment in our other communities that have seen an economic downturn as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 882-18(2):  
ECOLE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CAPACITY  
CONCERNS

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to know what the Minister of Education's plan is to resolve overcrowding in Ecole St. Joseph's School. Thank you

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we could have a good discussion about utilization rates here in Yellowknife, where the utilization rates vary from school to school across the community. When we look at our utilization rates, we do assess them by community, and unfortunately here in Yellowknife we do see some schools that have some high utilization rates.

I can let the Member know that there was a review conducted at the schools in May and June with the staff from my department as well as the respective education districts. They walked through the schools, looked at spaces and what the spaces were being used for compared to what they were actually designed for. In some cases, spaces that were originally identified as classroom space were actually repurposed for things such as resource rooms, storage for school supplies, or even staff rooms.

We have a consultant that we did retain to prepare a space analysis and will provide recommendations to address space utilization here in Yellowknife. We are asking that YCS, too, wait until this review is completed so we can identify those capital requirements that will address space concerns and adequacy of schools for Yellowknife district education authorities.

**MR. TESTART:** I'd like to thank the Minister for providing that comprehensive explanation of the work that's being done on capacity; however, this school is at 97 per cent. Does the Minister agree that that is an unacceptable situation that needs to be resolved immediately?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, and that's why we've had these discussions. That's why we went and did the review in the schools to make sure that the school space was actually being used for what they were intended to be used for. Yellowknife does

have a history of space sharing agreements. For instance, once St. Joseph's students had to be accommodated as a result of a fire at their school; YK1, YCS did enter into a space sharing agreement. It has happened before.

Recently, YK1 and Commission Scolaire shared space with the Ecole William McDonald School while that school is undergoing construction for their addition, so there is history of space sharing agreements here in Yellowknife and I think we can continue to work on addressing that issue. Space sharing is a viable alternative to constructing additional space when space is already available here in Yellowknife.

**MR. TESTART:** The Minister indicated a number of emergency situations or temporary accommodations due to construction. I think there is a big difference between those circumstances and circumstances where policy changes have brought more students into the school than the school can contain. Will the Minister look at the possibility of modular classroom facilities and report back to both the House and the school board?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Currently, our utilization rates are a little different from the ones the Member presented. We are still waiting for official enrolment rates at the schools, and we are still working with both district education bodies to try to address this space sharing, the space issues that are arising in Yellowknife schools, so we are continuing to work with them to find a solution.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suppose this is an ongoing issue with schools in Yellowknife, and I am pleased that the department is trying to lump them out because they are not all the same, and you cannot just take kids from one district and put them in another. You need to work with the school boards. Parents choose to put their kids in those school boards, and those school boards deserve the support, when we put programs like junior kindergarten and inclusive education into these schools. Again, I would like to ask the Minister: can the Minister answer if he has a cost for those modulars, what that cost would be, and if he is willing to pay it? Thank you.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Currently, I do not have those costs for modular in front of me. As I mentioned, we were waiting to see what the space analysis says and what recommendations are coming out of that report, and are prepared to make decisions when we see that report and look at those recommendations. We just ask that YCS, YK1, be patient and continue to work with us to find a solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 883-18(2):  
LAND RIGHTS AGREEMENTS

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and you only had to ask me once today. Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, earlier today I spoke about the important matter of us settling our land rights with the Indigenous people of the Northwest Territories. My questions today are for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, every session, I try to make a point of doing a Member's statement and asking oral questions on this matter. I would like to ask the Premier, since last May when he provided this House with the last update, I think it was around the time that the Ministerial special reports came out, has there been progress over the summer? Can the Minister update this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Honourable Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Ministerial special representative reports were a very important step in advancing Indigenous rights in the Northwest Territories, and were a key part of our commitment to look at new creative options to advance negotiations on land claims. After the MSR reports were issued, the Government of Canada, Minister Bennett and myself met separately with the Chiefs of the Akaitcho Territory, the presidents of the Northwest Territories Metis nation, and the Dehcho Grand Chief and leaders to review the report and to discuss next steps. In the case of the Akaitcho and the NWT Metis Nation, new offers with a range of options and increased flexibility were tabled within 45 days to both the Akaitcho and the NWT Metis Nation. With regards to the Dehcho, the Dehcho received a letter from Minister Bennett and myself seeking confirmation from the Dehcho First Nations that there is common ground on two fundamental issues that have challenged negotiations for many years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** I appreciate the update that the Premier was able to share with us. I had a different line of questioning, but the Premier has indicated there were a couple of fundamental issues. He was prepared to indicate that here in the House, so I am wondering: can the Premier elaborate a little bit more on what the context of the fundamental issues are, and are these solvable? Can we get past them? Will there be a resolution to the Dehcho's land rights?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** There are two fundamental issues. The first fundamental issue is whether the Government of the Northwest Territories effectively is a full partner in negotiations towards a Dehcho

final agreement. The second fundamental issue is with regards to the Dehcho portion of resource management in the Northwest Territories. Will they be looking at a single integrated Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, or will they be looking at a standalone system, a resource management that is coordinated with neighbouring regions to the Northwest Territories? Those are the two fundamental issues that we are seeking confirmation of.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you to the Premier for that insight. I think we waited a really long time for these reports. We waited a couple of years to get these reports. We see them as critical tools in advancing the settlement of these land right agreements. I am wondering: can the Premier let us know if, in fact, after all this time, these reports have been helpful at all? Are they going to be the guiding documents to settle these land rights once and for all?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** In my view, the MSR reports jump-started the negotiations so that there was increased emphasis on some of these longstanding negotiations. Some of these have been going for over 20 years, and the MSR reports provided an arm's length view of both issues and challenges, and it allowed us to find a way forward to look at overlap issues and also to deal with more increased facilitation that will allow us to move forward in land claims negotiations.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again to the Premier for his reply. It seems as though the reports are going to be fundamental going forward to find some degree of resolution and solution to these land right agreements. I just want to put it to the Premier one more time: does he still feel confident that one, two, or all of these land right agreements can be completed in the life of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Yes, we are working very hard towards those objectives, and negotiations continue with the Northwest Territories Metis Nation and the Akaitcho on the recent proposals. We are very optimistic that the new offers that Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories put on the table with their built-in flexibility and the ability of the Indigenous governments to tailor their agreement to their priorities, I believe will give us the impetus to make some real progress. I am also happy to report that we recently received correspondence from the Dehcho First Nations government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 884-18(2):  
ARCTIC ENERGY ALLIANCE PROGRAMS

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure, who is also responsible for the Arctic Energy Alliance. As I said in my statement, when program funds run out before the end of the first quarter, we obviously have a good program that needs to be better resourced.

As Regular MLAs, we had requested during the last budget more money for the alliance. Now that our prediction of inadequate funds has come true, can the Minister re-profile funds so the alliance can approve the applicants on its waiting list and publicize the availability of programs to those who did not bother to apply? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Arctic Energy Alliance is a great organization that is helping us particularly move forward now with the mandate of this Assembly around energy conservation. Regarding the programs that the Member is talking about, we give \$100,000 a year to the Arctic Energy Technology Program as well as \$120,000 a year to the Commercial Technologies Conversation and Efficiency Program. The Member is talking about the uptake on this program. I believe it is a very successful program, but there are things in place to help address some of these things.

Presently, if a program is oversubscribed this early on, the department or another department or the Arctic Energy Alliance will do a review process, usually quarterly, on where certain projects are, and if someone who is going to be a recipient of these funds is not able to use this money in this fiscal year, that money will be re-profiled back into the program and the next person on the waiting list will have an opportunity to access that money.

As well, I believe in the second and third quarters of the fiscal year, the Arctic Energy Alliance does a review on fiscally where they are at and which programs are not being overspent. These monies can be reallocated within that fiscal year to help address some of these things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks to the Minister for that response. Good to hear that the Arctic Energy Alliance can actually re-profile money within their own envelope, but we have actually seen a reduction in their funding over the last few years because there was extra money made available as part of the deal to subsidize hydro low-water levels. Can the Minister, though, commit to bring back a substantially increased budget for the Arctic Energy

Alliance in 2018-2019 so that we can continue with and build on the success of their programs?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Going forward, the one thing I am going to be able to commit to is that we are engaged with the federal government, as I said in my Minister's statement today, on the low carbon economy leadership fund. This is a fund that we believe can be used to help top up the Arctic Energy Alliance, and we believe it could actually even be in the million-dollar range to help support these programs moving forward. We will continue to update Members as we get more criteria and results from the federal government on where that is going.

**MR. O'REILLY:** That is a great figure from the Minister. That is exactly what the Regular MLAs asked for in the last budget, but you did not top it up. Glad to hear that there might be more available from the federal government, but as the feds come in, we want to make sure that we do not use that as an excuse to start to withdraw our funding. Will the Minister commit to at least maintaining our funding level for the Arctic Energy Alliance as new federal funding might become available?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Going forward, I do not see us backing off on the commitment that we already give the Arctic Energy Alliance. We give them roughly \$2.7 million a year, and 95 per cent of that comes from the territorial government. We believe this low carbon fund will help us meet our energy strategy going forward. Particularly, there is 15 per cent in the strategy that we want to use towards energy efficiency on buildings across the Northwest Territories, and 40 per cent for renewable energy sources for space heating by 2030. We need these types of resources to help accomplish this in our energy strategy moving forward.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. Thanks very much to the Minister. I am very glad to get that commitment that, if the feds start coming in, we are not going to start clawing back money out of the Arctic Energy Alliance.

I am just wondering if the Minister can tell us what sort of program review or evaluation cycle is in place for the Arctic Energy Alliance overall. When could we expect that sort of evaluation to take place so that they can start to offer more programs and services? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, the Government of Northwest Territories is in the process of reviewing Arctic Energy Alliance programs and services to ensure programs represent the best

value for money on these programs and meet the goals that we want to achieve, particularly around our energy strategy moving forward. I can update the Member, as of right now, I think that we are in the process of awarding an RFP for that work, and it should be getting under way by next month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 885-18(2):

RENEWABLE RESOURCES OFFICER VACANCY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks in Tsiigehtchic, Tsiigehtchic has had an unusual number of wild animals coming into the community. Can the Minister comment on how current renewable resource officers address this situation? Thank you.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, currently, we have two wildlife officers from Inuvik in the community with a live bear trap trying to trap the bear that has been wandering around there. As well, we have another wildlife officer from Fort McPherson, I believe, who is going to be stationed in the community for a couple of nights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, that is great to hear. When communities without their own renewable resource officers need the department's assistance on a wildlife call, especially when it happens outside working hours, what should residents do?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, my understanding is pretty well all the communities in the Northwest Territories do have wildlife officers, but in the cases of where they are not available or there is nobody there, they have an emergency wildlife line that they can call. If that number is not readily available in Tsiigehtchic or posted where a lot of residents can see it, then I will ask the department to ensure that the numbers are posted where residents of Tsiigehtchic are able to see it.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, roughly when can we expect to see the new officer position filled and a new officer taking up their work in the community?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, my understanding is the new officer for the community of Tsiigehtchic is going to be starting by the end of October.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in past cases like we have in Tsiigehtchic, ENR let hunters take down problem bears in emergency situations. Would it be all right if hunters helped out with the emergency situation, in a safe manner, of course? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, public safety and the safety of the community is our first concern. If the community feels that there is a problem bear or one that is a threat to the community, they are able to take it down. As the Member said, it would have to be done in a safe manner. We would like to have our wildlife officers do it, but if they are not available and there is a threat, then they would be able to take the bear down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 886-18(2):

SMALL COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have more questions for the Minister of Education on small community employment rates. Mr. Speaker, the \$3 million that the Minister spoke of earlier has the potential of decreasing or increasing employment rates in small communities by a certain percentage; it is maybe 5 or 6 per cent. Is the Minister aware of what the potential is for the \$3 million? If it is spent in the small communities, what will it do for the employment rates in small communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, one of the mandates of this government is to increase employment rates, close the skill gaps throughout the Northwest Territories, and obviously \$3 million in employment in small communities would be significant. We would see a lot of businesses that would train locals, as well as a focus on skill development, and create employment. As you go back through the history, the Small Community Employment Program with the funding that we had in previous years was not fully utilized. With the increase influx that we have gotten, I think we will continue to support the small communities, but, looking at enhancements, we want to make sure that the communities that did take a hit with the economy also got supports.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Minister is aware that the employment rates in the NWT run 6 to 10 per cent higher than the rest of Canada.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes. Employment rates go up as the communities get smaller and, in some regions, we have seen where employment was thriving at one point and now it is, I will not say diminished, but slowed down by a lot. We want to make sure that we allow our residents, our Northerners, the opportunity to get the training, get employment, as well as increase skill development.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Minister is aware that the small communities are represented by about 90 per cent Indigenous people.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I am well aware of that. We also have to understand that this program itself is application-based, so we work with our partners to ensure that they can put in an application and get that funding through the application process.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the Minister is aware that the employment rate for Indigenous people is 54 per cent in the Northwest Territories and 80 per cent for non-Indigenous people.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I am well aware of that. That is why we are making some of the initiatives, strategies, investments, to address those issues. The Small Community Employment Support Program is one way we are doing that. Our enhanced Student Financial Assistance so people can get the training that they need to so that they can enter the workforce, our labour market contracts that we have with the federal government to address some of those labour market needs, as well, there are many areas that we are doing to try to address these concerns. We are working as a government to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 887-18(2):  
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. Earlier today the Minister for Infrastructure made a Minister's statement about federal infrastructure programs. Folks on this side of the House, we often do not really know what our Cabinet colleagues are doing with regard to these programs, so it was a helpful update. I am just wondering, he mentioned in his statement that there is an initial proposal that has been submitted to the Low Carbon Economy Fund. Can the Minister just shed a little bit of light about what is in that proposal so that we have a better understanding? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Low Carbon Economy Fund is something that came up in short order with the federal government. They gave us a very short timeline to respond to what we think we could deliver on what their criteria was around this. It is still an ongoing bilateral agreement with the federal government. There were a number of initiatives that we have put forward. I am not so sure I can discuss them in the House right now, as the negotiations are still going back and forth with the federal government.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks to the Minister for that. I understand it might be the subject of negotiations. Is the Minister willing to share that draft proposal with the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment on a confidential basis?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, we can do that.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks to the Minister for that commitment. Would the Minister be prepared to do that with other federal infrastructure programs? I am not asking to be deluged with initial proposes, but, on this side of the House, we just do not know what is going on a lot of times with what our Cabinet colleagues are doing in terms of submitting proposals. Is the Minister prepared to make that commitment on other federal funding programs, big infrastructure ones? I do not need everything.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I can take that under advisement and then let the Member know.

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

QUESTION 888-18(2):  
FUNDING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROGRAMS

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of Ministers have made the comment that the economy is in a downturn, and I am wondering what this government is doing to correct that problem. We have heard some ideas around small community employment. We have a budget before us that is under consideration. I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs how she is working at closing the infrastructure gap that is delivered to our communities. Local infrastructure projects are the best way to provide short-term gain to our economy, to create jobs and growth. What is the Minister's strategy to get that money flowing to our communities and grow our economy? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of things we are doing. We are actually working on a strategy to address the funding gap that I talked about in Committee of the Whole yesterday, that we would be providing to the Members in the fall, coming up. We are working with the federal government to leverage their infrastructure money. Ultimately, it is the communities' responsibility to define what they want to do for capital projects and infrastructure building, so we actually provide supports to the communities to define their capital planning process.

**MR. TESTART:** Not to pre-empt this plan, but is this going to be a costed plan that actually has numbers attached to it, or is it an aspirational plan that talks about "support" and "working with" and "capturing" opportunities? Is it a costed plan that is going to actually deliver funds into our communities and get our economy back on track?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** The plan is still under development. I suspect that there will be some work towards goals that are talked about in it and also some financial issues that we will need to address. Will it be actually costed and say: this is what we will provide each year? That, I cannot guarantee.

**MR. TESTART:** Mr. Speaker, of the current contribution we make to community-level infrastructure, does that money get spent? Does 100 per cent of that money get spent year on year?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** It took me a moment to clarify what the question was. The money that we give to communities is actually their monies. They use their monies as they see fit. Some communities have surpluses with that, and some have deficits, and so we try to work with the communities that have deficits to try to address those by a deficit recovery plan.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that is part of the issue here, is we need to make sure that that money is going into local projects. Can the Minister commit to working with communities to make sure they are maximizing this investment, I know that that is part of leveraging federal funding, but with our own dollars, and taking a look at those surpluses and seeing if they can be invested in projects for today rather than continuing our economic woes, so to speak?

This kind of infrastructure spending creates growth. It is creating record growth in Canada, as part of

increased federal infrastructure investment. It is time this government took that approach, and local community-level spending of infrastructure dollars is the best way to do it. Will the Minister work on getting that money out to the communities? Thank you.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** As I said earlier, we provide the funding to the communities. They determine what they are using the money for. Some communities are building up surpluses so they can build bigger infrastructure items. No, I will not commit to going in and using an iron fist with communities. I believe that that is a step backwards. We are working towards self-government, self-determination, and I as a Minister will adhere to that within my term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 889-18(2):  
PROPOSED HAY RIVER LONG-TERM CARE  
FACILITY

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The government recently announced a 48-bed long-term care facility, pending approval of this capital budget, would be built in Hay River. There is no detail in the capital plan other than a completion date of 2021, so I'd like to know: when can we expect this project to break ground? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is still a lot of planning to do and a lot of work that needs to be done. I'll have to confirm with the department when we think we might actually be able to break ground. Before we break ground, a significant amount of work does have to happen. We have to find potential partners; we have to find potential builders. We're looking at the H.H. Williams site. That building will likely have to come down before we get there. I will get more information for the Member to get as close to a potential break ground date, recognizing that a lot of work has to happen between now and then.

**MR. SIMPSON:** I was also going to ask potentially where this could be located, but he did mention the site of the old hospital, so I assume that's what they're looking at. Will this be operated by the GNWT or will this be under the authority of the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, there's still a discussion ongoing around that. There are

some potential partners who have indicated they would like to follow an Avens-type model in Hay River, so it could be something like Avens, but we haven't made that final conclusion or decision.

It could be the Hay River Authority; it may not be. I think there's a lot of interest in the community on doing things a little different, being a little creative about how we actually provide those services to the residents of the community as well as South Slave, and we're open to all possibilities at this point in time.

**MR. SIMPSON:** A very intriguing answer. The big question is: how many positions can we expect at this new facility? How many jobs are we looking at?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, it's a little early to give concrete, definitive numbers, but I can give some rough numbers that we're looking at today. The most efficient way to build long-term care beds in the Northwest Territories is 24-bed pods. We find that we're going to get the best value for money and be able to provide the greatest degree of safe services for residents.

Based on a 48-bed facility, which is basically two pods, what we're looking at is about 60 positions. That would include direct care staff, which is RNs, LPNs, resident care aides, and for a 48-bed facility that's about 38.5 positions, including relief, because we need to be able to ensure that we're providing 24/7 care. People do go on holidays, people do call in sick, so we need relief to cover that.

Those aren't the only staff who would be in this type of facility, Mr. Speaker. We would need managers, supervisors, admin, housekeeping, laundry, cooks, activity aides, coordinators. We're anticipating that based on existing models and modifying for 24-bed facilities that's about 17.5 positions, not including relief. We're hovering around 60 positions, and that would be true both for Hay River as well as Inuvik, because we're looking at 48-bed facilities in both those communities.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, this represents a lot of skilled positions. Considering there's a facility planned for Inuvik, as well, that's a lot more positions. How is the government preparing our labour force for this future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, we're still a few days away from actually opening these facilities, so we have some time to do some training. When it comes to one of our more recent facilities, the facility in Norman Wells, we worked with local partners as well as Aurora College to provide some training for resident care aides. We

can certainly explore that model. I think there's great training out there where we can train local people for local work, and at the end of the day that's what we would like to do: local people, local work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The time has expired for oral questions. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Yellowknife North.

### Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 27:

#### AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment has reviewed Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act, and wishes to report that Bill 27 is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Health and Social Services.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 453-18(2):  
CONTINUING CARE SERVICES ACTION PLAN  
2017-2018 TO 2021-2022

TABLED DOCUMENT 454-18(2):  
2017-2018 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
AUTHORITY BUDGETS

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Continuing Care Services Action Plan 2017-2018 to 2021-2022," as well as the "2017-2018 Health and Social Services Authority Budgets." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents.

TABLED DOCUMENT 455-18(2):  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIRING  
ALLOWANCE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

**MR. SPEAKER:** Pursuant to section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the "Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Fund Financial Statements for the Year

Ended March 31, 2017." Item 15, notices of motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 36-18(2):  
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO  
OCTOBER 3, 2017

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, September the 28, 2017, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when the House adjourns on September 28, 2017, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, October 3, 2017;

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Masi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. 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: Committee Report 12-18(2), Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on the Progress Review of the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019; Minister's Statement 186-18(2), Update on the A New Day Program; Tabled Document 416-18(2), GNWT Capital Estimates 2018-2019; Tabled Document 419-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised).

By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 18-18(2), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider business before the House, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marsi cho, Mr. Chairman. Committee would like to consider Tabled Document 416-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2018-2019. We would like to include the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, go on to Lands, Environment

and Natural Resources, Industry, Tourism and Investment, and Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. We will first take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we agreed to continue our deliberation of Tabled Document 416-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2018-2019, and continue with the consideration of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. When we left off yesterday, we were finishing up general comments. I believe nearly every Member had a chance to speak who wanted to. Are there any more Members who would like to make general comments on MACA?

I apologize. I jumped the gun here. Minister Cochrane, do you have witnesses you wish to bring into the Chamber?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, would you please introduce your witness to the House.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right is Ms. Eleanor Young. She is the deputy minister for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Welcome, Ms. Young. For those following at home, we are on page 64 of the capital estimates, and I believe Mr. Thompson is first on my list for general comments. Yes, Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I will try to be brief with my comments and questions today, since a number of my questions were answered during the meeting yesterday.

First of all, I would like to thank the department for providing funding for the communities and allowing them to make their own decisions regarding the capital. Can the Minister explain how the funding works for designated authorities, since I have a number of those communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Cochrane.



**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The designated authorities are actually communities that are actually funded or supported through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. They are not under the territorial legislation. We have a more limited authority over those communities, but their funding is provided based on the same needs assessment that we did for all communities when we did the new deal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for her answer. Can the Minister explain how this fund works in regard to designated authorities? She talks about a limited relationship with it. With capital, are there special guidelines that these communities have to follow, or are they the similar guidelines that we have for all communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Their guidelines are the same as for all communities. However, I should note that, based on the Office of the Auditor General, we are trying to work closer with INAC, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, to provide more of a comprehensive support to those designated authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you. I thank the Minister for that answer. I think it is great that the federal government and territorial governments are working with these communities, especially with some issues.

I have a couple of other questions. Are the communities able to save these funds to do one big project at the end? I believe the Minister was talking about it in the House today, and I was kind of smiling when she was talking about it because I had this question written down. Are the communities able to do that, and where do the funds stay in regards to that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, communities are allowed to save their money from capital revenues, and that is important because some communities want to build bigger infrastructure units, such as a public swimming pool or a library or things that take multi-year funding. That money is retained by the communities in their

bank accounts, but we do get a financial audit every year provided to Municipal and Community Affairs so that we can oversee their spending and their reserves. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I think she was pulling on my heartstrings there, saying a library and a pool. It was like old days, with the recreation side of me coming out.

In regard to keeping these funds and putting them into reserves, I have heard in other years that some people have spent the money on other facilities, like a hotel or a store. Are these kinds of projects for this type of money, or should they be looking at other avenues to fund these types of capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, our guidelines actually are very explicit on the type of infrastructure that they are allowed to utilize out of the capital funding. If they have used their funding inappropriately against the guidelines, then we work very closely with the communities to try to get them to stay on track. They may have to sometimes pay back from other revenues that they may take in, but we have explicit guidelines on where they are allowed to spend the money, and we do oversee to make sure that that funding is spent appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. There is nothing further from Mr. Thompson. I believe I will call on Mr. Testart. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 67 of MACA's capital infrastructure is a list of communities, and it is related to the community government share of capital formula funding, but there are no dollar amounts listed. Can the Minister explain why that is? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. For many years now, the funding within the capital estimates process has actually been provided as line items. However, the information is public. It is public through our MACA update, if Regular MLAs are looking to access that information.

We also provide all communities their funding. In September to December, we provide a listing of all

community funding to the communities so that they can actually use that to plan for their capital expenditures and, of course, for their operating and maintenance. All of the funding is provided to them during that term. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That information is already public. Is there any reason not to print it here, just for greater transparency of these budget documents? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Like I said, that information is public at this point. You can access it through our website. I will carry that recommendation forward into the next year's capital estimates planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Do I have anything further for general comments? Seeing none, we will defer consideration of the departmental total until after consideration of the activity summaries, the first of which can be found on page 66. Municipal and Community Affairs, regional operations, infrastructure investments, \$27,193,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Turning to page 69, with associated information item on page 70, Municipal and Community Affairs, public safety, infrastructure investments, \$115,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Turning back to page 64, Municipal and Community Affairs, total capital estimates, \$27,308,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you to the witness for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witness from the Chamber. Committee, next we have agreed to consider the Department of Lands, which begins on page 58. I will turn to the Minister

responsible for any opening comments he may have. Minister Sebert.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have no opening comments.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Do you wish to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, I do.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, will you please introduce your witnesses to the Chamber.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right is Willard Hagen, the deputy minister. To my left is Brenda Hilderman, the director of finance and administration. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Do we have any opening remarks, any general comments from committee on the Department of Lands? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am just actually flipping back to page 5, where the lands funding forward over the next three years is shown. There does not seem to be much money that they are predicting is required in 2019-2020 or 2020-2021, so what is going on? Does this department not have any capital replacement or aspirations or anything? What is going on with Lands? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the answer to that is that we have not yet necessarily determined all of the needs we may have in the future, so those numbers for the future could change. We are not contemplating, obviously, any major projects currently, at that time. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. However, when I see on page 5 that the 2019-2020 total planned infrastructure investment is \$698,000, that is sort of a fairly clear figure. What is that money for? There must be some sort of predictions or totalling of some projects that would equal that amount. Can the Minister or his officials provide any details? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Looking at the five-year capital needs, so 2019-2020 to 2023-2024, there are some projects, if I can just identify them for you. There is replacement of shop space in Fort Smith. There is a small warehouse in the community that transferred to the government in 1987 and will require a major retrofit. There is also a five-year needs assessment which would include a cold-storage space in Inuvik. There is presently a cold-storage and heated shop in Inuvik leased from the federal government, but those leases expire in the next couple of years. If they are not renewed, we would require shop space in support of our operations in Inuvik. Looking longer-term, six to 20 years, shop space in Hay River and Inuvik and a future retrofit in the distant future of the Beaufort Delta office. There are projects, none of them of a terribly major size, in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, for that thorough overview. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the details from the Minister. Perhaps he can confirm for me, then, that we are not cutting capital expenditures in the future for Lands to fund other infrastructure. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister Sebert.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, we are not doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have no further questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Any further general comments on the Department of Lands? Seeing none, we will defer consideration of the departmental total until consideration of the activity summaries, the first of which begins on page 59, Lands, informatics shared service centre, infrastructure investments, \$1,513,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Turning to page 61 with an associated information item on page 62, Lands, operations, infrastructure investments, \$110,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Turning back to page 58, Lands, total

capital estimates, \$1,623,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you very much, committee. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of the Department of Lands?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Committee, we have agreed to next consider the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. I assume the Minister has no opening comments. Would he like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses to the House.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to my right I have Dr. Erin Kelly, who is our assistant deputy minister in ENR. To my left I have Susan Craig, who is our director of corporate services. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister, and welcome to the witnesses. Do we have any opening comments or general comments from committee on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. The same sort of questions I had for the Minister of Lands, to some extent: when I look at page 16, the total capital expenditures really jump around quite a bit for this department. I think I probably have some ideas why, but I guess I would like to hear from the officials. What is going on? In 2016-2017, it was almost \$29 million; 2017-2018 revised estimates, \$10.6 million; this year, for 2018-2019, it is only \$3 million. What is going on here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Craig.

**MS. CRAIG:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In year 2016-2017, that was the purchase of the 802 Air Tractor, so that was quite a large, substantial capital project. In 2017, our main estimates were \$3,400,000, which is around our normal allocation for capital, and when you compare that to the 2018-2019 main estimates, they are quite similar. The main reason for the revised amount is that we

had projects that were not completed in 2016-2017, and they were carried forward into 2017-2018.

Substantially, we have a project in Inuvik, the Shell Lake Complex, and in Fort Simpson, we have the lab that is being hopefully finished this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Craig. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is what I expected, was that those aircraft had bumped up 2016-2017. When we cast our minds forward into future years' expenditures for ENR, back on page 5, for 2019, it is only \$544,000, and then nothing for 2020-2021. I know it is often difficult to predict capital expenditures into the future, but surely there must be some sort of a regular replacement cycle and things for vehicles and buildings and stuff like that. Why is there not a more substantial investment from ENR and into the future? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Craig.

**MS. CRAIG:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point in time we have projects that are in our 20-year capital needs, and they need to come forward into that planning cycle of 2019-2020. We do anticipate that we will have a small cap allocation similar to our budgets that we have now in the \$3 million area. As the Member stated, we need to identify the projects that are either in lifecycle, repair, or improvements on the existing capital projects that we have.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Craig. Further, Mr. O'Reilly?

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mr. Chair, yes. I just make the case again: I do not want to see cuts in ENR to fund other kinds of infrastructure. Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have no further questions. It is more of a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is funny that Ms. Craig has a comment on my ENR facility in Fort Simpson, so can the Minister please provide us an update of what the status is? It was supposed to be done a couple of years ago, but it has not been done yet. Can he give us an update on what the status of it is? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, our expectation is it will be done during this fiscal year. Thank you, completed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** That is good to hear, and I thank the Minister for that answer. Can I get an update when it is done so that I can maybe get a tour of this facility? It has been long overdue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. We will be more than glad to send the Member an invite to hold one end of the ribbon. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you. I would prefer not to hold the ribbon, but that is okay. I appreciate the offer. During general comments, I talked about the microwave power near Blackstone River. As the Minister is aware, we have had a little bit of a fire scare there. The community was talking about the potential of putting a cellular antenna on this facility, and this is something that we are trying to look at. Will the Minister be looking at this? Is this something that can be done through the capital planning process, or is this a miscellaneous opportunity they can fulfill doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, on the advice of the Member, we can commit to go back and have a look at it, and see what it might take to repair. We will have a look at it. Simple answer.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Mr. Thompson?

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Minister. Again, we are not asking for the tower to be built. It is more putting a cellular antenna on there, and the community is looking to do that. The next question is the CL215 water bombers. Have we sold those? Because I notice there are still a number of these airplanes still at the end of the runway by Buffalo. Have these planes been sold because they are not going to be used anymore by the government? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. The tenders have closed. We are reviewing

the offers, and once a decision is made, then I will update committee.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that, and I look forward to his update. That would be all for my questions for this department. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. There is no one further on my list for general comments, so we can move into the consideration of the department. We will defer the departmental total until after consideration of the activity detail, the first of which can be found on page 20, with an associated information item on page 21, Environment and Natural Resources, forest management, infrastructure investments, \$2,274,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Moving on to page 22. Environment and Natural Resources, water resources, infrastructure investments, \$300,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 24, with an associated information item on page 25, Environment and Natural Resources, wildlife, infrastructure investments, \$400,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Please return to page 16. I will call the departmental total, Environment and Natural Resources, total capital estimates, \$2,974,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Environment and Natural Resources?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and his witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Committee, we have agreed to next consider the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Would the Minister like to bring any witnesses into the Chamber? Minister Schumann.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, I would, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses to the Chamber.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my immediate left is Julie Mujcin, director of finance; on my immediate right is Deputy Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Tom Jensen.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the witnesses. I will open the floor up for general comments on the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, which begins on page 37 of the capital estimates. Any general comments on Industry, Tourism and Investment? Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am looking at the Tourism and Parks page. I know the Minister had good news to share yesterday about the number of tourists and, of course, most of them came by air and they are staying in hotels, but I do want to note that there were a lot of people who came to the Northwest Territories to camp. I'm a camper as well, and there were a number of times when parks were at or near capacity.

In addition to these incremental changes that are in the schedule here on pages 40 to 42, I'm wondering if the department is considering the development of additional spaces in any of the parks; that is to say, additional loops or additional parks themselves. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With the rise in numbers that is occurring right now, the Member is accurate. A number of these people are flying in here, but the rubber traffic is also increasing, not just locally, which is a large uptick on it, but we are looking at additional loops possibly in the North Slave. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry; I was just grabbing my earpiece here. I don't think I heard an answer to my question about how to accommodate more campers in the NWT road-accessible parks. Thank you

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry she didn't get to hear that, but we are

looking at putting additional loops in the North Slave region in particular due to the amount of rubber traffic increase. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you. I appreciate him repeating that information. Is there any thought to putting additional loops into any of the other campgrounds that are along the highway network that comes from Alberta to the North Slave? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are constantly re-evaluating the use of all our parks within the Northwest Territories and we will continue to do so, so the short answer to her question is we are continually evaluating them and looking at how we are going to expand the use of the areas that are maximized. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Those were all my questions on this topic. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Next, Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Similar to that area, Fort Liard Highway, NWT/BC border pullout pavilion there, I notice that it's not going to have a VI centre, it's just going to be a pavilion put up there. Is there a reason why the department hasn't looked at putting a VI centre at that location, considering that they have one at the NWT/Alberta border and then they have one in Dawson City as well? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right now we're just looking at putting this pavilion in there and upgrading what we can and then we will keep re-evaluating moving forward, as we have a 20-year plan on how we're going to move forward on these assets. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. When he talks about re-evaluating, how are we going to be able to justify the numbers that are going through there? I guess the question is: how are they going to re-evaluate the importance of having a VIC centre in

there if they don't have somebody checking the numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Like I said, we have a 20-year plan moving forward, but we re-evaluate all our parks and usage of these facilities on an annual basis and we will continue to do so. Once we have the numbers in based on the traffic that's crossing at this border, we'll have another look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand you're going to re-evaluate and you're going to look at your 20-year plan, but the community would like to see a VIC centre in there, and a lot of the tourists who are coming through there are looking for that when they show up. I have to applaud the department for putting a pavilion there and it's greatly appreciated, but a VIC centre would have a huge impact on the community and also the region in the southern territories, if people would be going up there and have that opportunity. Will the Minister work with the community to see the feasibility of putting a VIC centre in there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I've said, we have our 20-year plan and we re-evaluate our plan every year, and we will have discussions with the community moving forward on what we could possibly do at this location. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you and I thank the Minister for the commitment to work with the community on that. With the Fort Simpson Territorial Park and site there, I notice we're doing some work with the roadways and it's greatly appreciated, and the signs, but is the department looking at completing the brushing in that area? Because there are certain areas that it's really blocked up. It's the Fort Simpson Territorial Park, it's on page 40. Are they going to be looking at clearing up the brush there so it's clean? It will help eliminate wildlife walking through there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I can tell the Member that there is some brushing included in the funds that allocated for this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that. I greatly appreciate that. The Blackstone Territorial Park, when we were talking about employment for Nahanni Butte, is there some component in there for the brushing and clearing of that site that could be done by this community? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll have to get that level of detail on how we're going to be allocating that type of work and get back to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson. Is there anything further about the capital plan?

**MR. THOMPSON:** Yes one more thing. It's on page 41, it's in that part of it. I thank the Minister and look forward to getting that information. Those are all my questions for this department. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister if he could provide us with the status of the fish plant in Hay River.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We still have a \$1.4 million commitment for the fish plant in Hay River, and we were working with the local fisheries and discussion with Freshwater Marketing Corporation on how we were going to move this forward and we are still wishing to move that forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Mr. Beaulieu?

**MR. BEAULIEU:** No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Next, Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I just wanted to build upon the Minister's comments in terms of highlighting the increased tourism industry in the NWT and also in terms of airline traffic that

brings people up North, but to try to build up on the Minister's comment as he puts it "the rubber traffic" and to see if there's ways that our communities can maybe tap into an opportunity.

I'm trying to understand if there's some immediate or maybe a semblance of a plan for all these parks that we have, particularly those in the Enterprise area, Kakisa, and Fort Providence, to see if there's some long-term visioning in terms of maybe bringing cellular technology into those areas but at the same time maybe free Wi-Fi and maybe upgrading so that people could park their RVs with proper facilities, like electrical outlets and that kind of stuff. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that is a discussion that maybe the Member can have with our regional office and give those ideas forward to the regional superintendent regarding how we can improve that. With types of infrastructure around cellular and stuff, that is something that is driven by industry, but maybe there is an opportunity when in front of committee as the Minister of Infrastructure, maybe some of these federal funds might be a possibility to help address some of those types of things. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister's offer in terms of maybe me engaging his officials, but the understanding that I have in terms of protocol is that, as MLAs here, we are allowed the leisure of working with Ministers. I just wanted to build upon an opportunity to see if perhaps the Minister would have an idea of how we could plan to work with communities, especially the small communities that I represent. I am trying to bring opportunities for tourism to be broadened, to be enhanced in small communities.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The point is well taken. The opportunity is here today. I can actually go a bit further. I could sit down with the superintendent myself to discuss these with the Member and have a discussion on what type of opportunities he thinks are possible coming forward and direct the superintendent to go into the regions and, based on those discussions, have discussions with the communities.

Around small business, there are a number of funding pots that are available through not just the tourism sector, a division of ITI, but also through the

SEED opportunities and things. I welcome the opportunity to sit down with the Member at any point and talk about opportunities going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you. Maybe as a prelude to those discussions, I think it is great, the park facilities that we have as we enter the northern side of the NWT coming from Alberta, especially the road traffic. We have some great infrastructure based out of Enterprise.

One of the particular interests of communities could be maybe expanding in terms of interpreter interaction with local people and tourists to see if maybe they could showcase the local history of communities. I wanted to see if perhaps that could be expanded. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have tourism development officers in every region who look at doing this stuff, and I can have a conversation with them and how we can possibly look at expanding some of those things. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Those are all the questions that I have.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Next we have Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would like to ask a couple of questions about the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre. Given the fact that the Northern Frontier Visitors Association is planning to stop operations at the end of this month, I am wondering who is going to assume ownership of the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Northern Frontier Visitors Centre has asked about returning this asset back to the Government of Northwest Territories, and they are in discussions with the Department of Infrastructure on it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Would there be any exchange of money? Would the government be buying the centre from the Northern Frontier Visitors Association, or would it be a deal for a dollar? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do not believe there will be an exchange of money, but I can look into the details and get back to the Member on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Once the GNWT assumes ownership of the building, what do they plan to do with it? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Department of Infrastructure will be doing an assessment of that building once it comes back into our possession and see what opportunities lie, if it has to be abated and disassembled and gotten rid of, or if there is a possibility of maybe taking a part of the building off and repatriating it in some other manner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister provide some timing around when the assessment will take place and when a decision will be made to either tear it down or salvage it? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will have to get back to the department and get that information for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green, anything further?

**MS. GREEN:** I just would like to point out that, in its current form, it is an eyesore. The sooner a decision can be made about what to do with it, I think, the better.

I want to go from there into page 5 with the long-term spending plan for ITI. It looks like the year that we are contemplating is going to be the high point of spending on tourism infrastructure, although, as the Minister has already said, the road traffic has increased. There may be value in creating new



camp spaces in the North Slave and elsewhere. How flexible is this plan in bringing in new money if further development is going to take place? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. ITI submits a 20-year assessment to the working group on capital. The allocation is given out based on a rational total of asking for funding for funding available over three years, and we are at the end of those three years right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** I want to make sure that I understand that response. Let us say that the department does the analysis of this year's camp site usage. How quickly could a decision be made to increase the number of camp sites available? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we do our 20-year analysis on what we need going forward, we usually over-prioritize. When it comes to allocation of money, we have to prioritize what we are doing. That is what has happened on an annual basis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I am struggling with is trying to develop the tourism economy and creating the infrastructure that will support that goal and how it fits into this planning cycle. I do not feel like I have definitive answers that link those things together. If the Minister could provide that, that would be helpful. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you look on page 37 of the capital estimates, last year's was \$3,773,000. This year's allocation is exactly the same. This is the end of a three-year cycle. Going forward, then, again, we are going to have to go back, and the next cycle, depending on where the allocation of money is going to be and the amount of money that we have as a government, we are going to have to figure out what the priorities are of this government and try to allocate them in the best manner we can. Then the board will have to put forward what we feel is going to be able to meet the needs of tourism in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I take from that is that, even though there is a small amount of money allocated next year and none to the year after, this may well change once they have done their three-year plan. Do I have that right?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Ms. Mujcin.

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The amount that the Member is referencing is the amount of money that is reflected. Some of the projects that you see today are over two or three years, and so that amount represents the two-year projects, so that will be the amount allocated to some of these projects that we will be completing in 2019-2020 versus 2018-2019. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you for that clarification. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** I understand that; so the reason that it is blank in 2020-2021 is because the planning has not been done for that year. Is that correct?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Ms. Mujcin.

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What this plan is showing you are the projects that are being brought forward for 2018-2019 and some of those have funding going into 2019-2020, and they do not have any funding going into 2020-2021 that will be coming forward. In our 20-year plan, we have projects allocated to 2020-2021. They are just not part of this plan you see before you today. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you for that clarification. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you very much for that. Those are all my questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Then we have Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was really pleased to hear the Minister say there is going to be a new visitors centre on the Liard Highway for my colleague, the honourable Member for Nahendeh. Where in the budget can I find capital allocation for a new visitors centre in Yellowknife? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do not have any capital allocated to a project

like that because we do not even know what the plan is yet, moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. When the plan is developed, is the Minister prepared to bring forward a supplementary appropriation to put the appropriate amount of capital in there to support the tourism sector in the capital and as a launching pad for folks to go to other communities, as well? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not going to commit to anything like that. We are working with the city very diligently and closely on this, moving forward. When we sit down with them after the October 1<sup>st</sup> date and continue to work on this going forward, we do not even know where this will be located, what type of facility would be needed, or if one is even going to be needed. Those discussions are ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Not much of a commitment there other than to talk. How do we get such a facility into capital planning, then? What is the process for doing that? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have said, the discussion are ongoing with the City of Yellowknife, but, even if something was brought forward, we would have to figure out if this was a small capital or a large capital item, and then the decision would have to be made on how we would bring it forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I think this is actually in big caps that Yellowknife needs a new visitors centre, so I look forward to the Minister bringing forward the supplementary appropriation or to start some sort of a planning process on this ASAP. The talk on this has been going on for far too long. That is a comment, and I do not expect a response from the Minister because I have not really gotten one so far. Thanks. Bye.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There are no further general comments for the Department of Industry, Tourism and

Investment, so we can move into consideration. We will defer consideration of the total until we look at the detail contained within. If you would, turn to page 39 and the associated information items which you can find on pages 40, 41, and 42. Mr. Testart, comments on Tourism and Parks?

**MR. TESTART:** Yes, thank you. I would like to ask the Minister: what is the plan for the Prelude Lake Territorial Park boat launch replacement? My understanding is that both the marina and the boat launch have been ongoing for some time. I would like to know when this work will be completed. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. I would ask Members to reference a page if they are speaking to a specific item. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This project is going to be ongoing to 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do see that here. There have been delays in this work previously. Is it smooth sailing ahead, or are we going to continue to see delays on this project? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The first phase of Prelude Lake Marina was completed and opened in July of 2017. The planning phase has begun to replace the aging Prelude Lake boat launch and to expand the parking lot at Prosperous Lake in preparation for the 2018-2019 construction season. It is expected to be completed and ready for the season opening in 2018. Also, the Prelude boat launch will be built based on engineers' recommendations, and capital funds have been allocated towards this project for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. The intention is to build a temporary single boat launch off the end of the water break and to do the work late in the season, when the boat launch is not so busy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Nothing further? I see nothing further from committee on this section. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to refer to page 41 and, in particular, the Prosperous boat launch refurbishment. I wonder if the Minister does not mind providing some additional detail there, as well, as to what that project is going to undertake and look like. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The scope of this project would require design options to mitigate the issue of low water levels at the boat launch, the parking area will need to be expanded and defined to accommodate more vehicles, and a new location for a boat launch will be needed to be identified. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for a point of clarification, when you say relocation of the boat launch, is that simply due to low water level issues, or is that maintaining the boat launch that is already there and adding an additional boat launch? The reason why I ask is because that is the primary concern at that boat launch, is that there is only one and that there is a line-up of vehicles with boats and boat trailers waiting to get access to the one and only boat launch. The question is: will there be an investment to either widen the existing boat launch or create another separate area to create another brand-new boat launch? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This boat launch has gotten a lot of attention as of late. I think what we are trying to do is go in there, have the engineering people have a look at this, do the design work, and look at possibly moving this boat launch. I think we will have to get back to the Member on exactly what is going to happen moving forward after the engineering is completed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is appreciated; so (a) I would just like to get conformation that we are still kind of in the design phase of this; and then (b) I would just like to remind the Minister that the recreational land use planning consultations took place some time ago. Many residents up and down the Ingraham Trail as well as recreational users of this particular lake did outline that primary concern, and that was that, because of the size of this lake and the usage of this lake -- it is a very popular lake and during weekends, long weekends especially -- it is nothing but a massive line-up to get access to the one and only boat launch, so I am just hoping that we can either expand the width of the current boat launch so that it can have two, possibly even three vehicles using it at one time. We have seen that in

other communities. We have seen that at other lakes, or that there would be another one entirely in another location. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister.

**MR. SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member's comments are duly noted. Like I said, we are doing the engineering, geotechnical, and design work. This is also a two-year project, so we are going to try and get all that stuff in 2018-2019, and depending what comes out of that, in the second year that construction will take place. We will keep the Member informed on what is going on out there. We definitely do not want to be building something that is replacing an existing facility that is not going to meet the needs of the people. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let us move a little further on down Ingraham Trail. I note that Powder Point is looking to get some work done to expand it, convert it into a day use area, which I am happy to see.

I just want to go to Cameron Falls for a moment. I think last year, in last year's capital plan, we allocated some funds to expanding the parking lot, and some other things that we were going to do at the Cameron Falls area. It was not really what we would call a day use area, because most people just simply trek into the falls themselves.

I was out there this year, and I did not see any work undertaken in terms of expanding the parking lot. In fact, it was so busy, and there were so many vehicles there, that I ended up having to park out on the highway. I am just wondering: where are we with the commitment to expanding the parking lot at Cameron Falls? Is the work still under way? Was that last year's budget? Do we have any money in this year's budget for it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister.

**MR. SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, we are still continuing to work on Cameron Falls. What happened was there was a pricing issue on the RFP, or tender, for that facility. That money has been carried over into this year, and we are continuing to work with the Department of Infrastructure on that, trying to move that project forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Just for clarification. I don't want to belabour the point. When the Minister refers to the RFP or the public tender being over-priced, is this just a case of a simple competition that everybody came in over price, or did we not have the appropriate engineer estimates? Maybe if the Minister could elaborate on why this would have come in over-priced. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Minister.

**MR. SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will have to get back to the department to find out those details. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further in this section. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Page 39, Industry, Tourism and Investment, tourism and parks, infrastructure investment, \$3,773,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Please turn back to page 37, Industry, Tourism and Investment, total capital estimate, \$3,773,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree this concludes our consideration of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you, Minister. Thank you to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber, and we will take a five minute recess. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will call the Committee of the Whole back to order. I see Mr. Testart wants my attention. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Committee would like to consider the Department of Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. We were agreed to consider Finance, but now Mr. Testart would like committee to consider Health and Social Services at this time. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. We will consider Health and Social Services. It begins on page 32 in the capital estimates. Would the Minister of Health like to bring any witnesses into the Chamber?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Yes, please.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today is Derek Elkin on my right. He is the assistant deputy minister of corporate services. On my left is Perry Heath, who is the director of infrastructure planning.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Would you introduce your witnesses more slowly for the record.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Come on. Yes, Mr. Chair. I have two people with me today. On my right is Derek Elkin, who is the assistant deputy minister of corporate services. On my left is Perry Heath, who is the director of infrastructure planning.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. I will open the floor to general comments. First I have Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I see some new health centres coming into some of the communities here, replacements. I did hear rumours they were going to be replacing the one in Tsiigehtchic.

---Laughter

You know, somebody was telling me that this summer here. I said that is the first I have heard of it, but I would be sure to bring it up here and hopefully get some sort of commitment, as that building is almost as old as I am. It is getting up there.

Also, with extended care, we do have a couple of facilities, one in Aklavik right now, the new Joe Greenland Centre, and hopefully within the year here we will have one in Fort McPherson that is similar. I know it is under Housing, but it is sort of a partnership, I believe, with Health, because some of the care that is being provided should be under Health anyway. I know the community of Tsiigehtchic is very interested, as well, in a similar type of unit. They want to try to keep the elders in their homes as long as they can, and especially if they have a caretaker; that would make things a lot easier. That is it for now. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister, you may respond.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, Tsiigehtchic is in the 20-year plan, but it is quite a ways out. It is not something that is contemplated in the life of this Legislative Assembly, but it is something that has always been monitored. We review the infrastructure that we have regularly and make sure that it is meeting our needs from a program point of view, and currently, Tsiigehtchic is meeting those needs. Yes, it is in the 20-year plan, but a long way off.

The Member is correct that the two buildings he is referencing are Housing Corporation facilities. They are independent living units for seniors, and that really ties in nicely with the Continuing Care Action Plan, where we want to support our residents to stay in their homes and, if they cannot stay in their homes, stay in their communities for as long as possible.

I really do applaud the Housing Corporation, who in the design of the independent living units they have been building them in the last couple of years, they have actually left program space in those facilities so that we can work with residents on day programs, but also have our home support staff come in and provide supports to help our residents age in place, to keep them out of long-term care facilities as long as possible. All science, all evidence demonstrates clearly that keeping people in their homes, in their communities, will benefit residents from a health perspective, but also from just a quality of life perspective as well.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is too bad it is so far away, a major retrofit or replacement, because there has really not much been done to the health centre all the time that I have been here. I know over the last two years they have worked on the pilings twice, now. That is not a good sign. Hopefully it lasts another couple of years, but we cannot keep doing that to these units. They have to be built to standard. I am sure the Minister will say that the blocking are up to standards, but if they are not maintained on a monthly basis, really a lot of the pilings are not doing very much. The blocking there has got to be maintained as much as possible.

There is also, as I mentioned in one of my statements here not long ago, the need for a vehicle in the community. It would be nice to have that in the next capital plan, but in the interim the community does need something to help out, especially with the elders' programs. Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I do take the Member's point about regular maintenance, and that is something that we obviously do try to keep on top of to make sure our buildings last as long as possible and that we are able to provide high-quality services in those facilities. We will certainly continue to monitor all of our facilities. With respect to a vehicle, the Member did raise some questions in the House earlier this week, and it is not in this capital plan, but I did indicate we would look at it to see what, if any, opportunities exist, especially in light of the liability questions that the Member did raise.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** It sounded like the Minister had some positive news to update me on that, hopefully a handy van or something that would make access for elders a little easier. As our elders get up there in age, just to drive a couple of kilometers down the Water Lake Road, you know, that sure brings life to them, and if we can do that for them, I am sure they would appreciate it. A lot of times, our elders do not get a chance to even go outside the community boundary. It is unhealthy, and we need to ensure that we do as much as we can to give them a good life. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is all I have.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Big announcements from the Minister?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No big announcement from the Minister, other than I will live up to the commitment that I already made to the Member in the House, which is we will explore every avenue to see what, if anything, we can do to provide those supports. Once again, the Member did raise a significant number of liability issues. That is clearly a concern, and that will be considered as we look at this.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Next, I have Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I guess my first question is we have heard some concerns, and maybe the Minister can alleviate some of the concerns out there with the new Yellowknife hospital being built, with the insulation. Has that been a concern that people should be aware of, with this insulation being exposed to all this weather out there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am probably not the best person to ask

that. I am the client in this particular situation. I really cannot speak to the technical requirements around building or how they are building the buildings. Sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I guess I can save that for the Minister of Infrastructure. In regards to the health centre replacement, the new level A health centre, is there a station being scheduled for Jean Marie? I guess what I am looking for is: how can we work with the community so that they can actually go get the financing to build this facility and lease it back to the government? We had some struggles with Samba K'e, and we have had to forego that arrangement, so what arrangements do we need to do to make that happen? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Jean Marie health station is a future priority. It is not actually contained in this capital project or this capital budget. However, as we were with Samba K'e and it did not work out, we are certainly open to other methods of procurement, including the possibility of the community owning the building and then leasing it back to us. Our current relationship in the community is they own the building, we rent the building. We are open to that, but we would certainly need a building built to certain specifications and standards to meet the needs of our health programming. I think there is lots of time for conversation on that one because it is not in the 2018-2019 capital plan.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for his answer. I guess I am probably going to have to disagree with him. I understand it is not the 2018-2019 capital plan, but we need to help get this community build capacity, and the quicker we start talking with them, the Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Health and Social Services, talking to the community and start working with them. Will the Minister make a commitment to work with the Minister for Infrastructure to get their regional staff in there so we can start working on this so that they can build a health centre that is to the code that we need to? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in the previous Assembly, I was honoured to be the Minister of Health and Social

Services, and I did have an opportunity to travel into Jean Marie at that time, and that exact question came up. We indicated to them at the time that we would be certainly open to some discussions if they wanted to propose something to us to build and own. We are still open to those conversations. I am certainly happy to work with the Department of Infrastructure, or rather have the Department of Health and Social Services work with the staff in Infrastructure to explore that opportunity, recognizing, you are right, there is no time like the present to have some conversation, but we certainly would be moving forward with acquisition or renting until further down into the capital plan.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that. I realize that we are not building it and renting it back to you, but I want to make sure that we start the process, and I hear that. I have talked to the chief when we were looking at Samba K'e, and they jumped all over it. They liked this idea. It helps the community. It is not a lot of money, but it helps them towards what they are trying to do, so it helps build their capacity. I greatly appreciate it. I guess my question was: can the Minister commit to working with me, as well, to make sure we can get that going with the community? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Absolutely. I mean, this is consensus government. We are open and willing and excited to work together, so absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** During this last six months, the community of Fort Liard has been trying to work with the department to build a morgue, and I realize it is not in the capital plan here, but right now, as you heard me speak a couple times, they put the body either in Fort Nelson or Fort Simpson or, worst case scenario, in the garage. There is not really much dignity for the body if they have to do that. I must say I appreciate the Minister and the department, that they are working with the community. When can the community expect to see something in the capital plan to have a morgue in place? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this is something that has come up time and again. As we move forward with new facilities such as the facility in Providence, the facility in Fort

Resolution, and other facilities, we actually do include this capacity in those new buildings. We are not planning at this point in time to build an addition or a substantial change to the facility in Fort Resolution to accommodate that, but, as it moves down in the capital plan, we would certainly be looking at something along those lines in all of our new facilities.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that. I am assuming he is talking about Fort Liard when we talked about it, and not Fort Resolution. I guess my struggle, though, is so basically, until we build a new facility, the community is not going to see a morgue. Is this correct, Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Basically, yes. I mean, as we build new facilities like the one we built in Fort Resolution and the one we built in Fort Providence, those ones have more capacity. Our old buildings don't, and we aren't planning to make any major renovations to existing facilities to include those services, but maybe for more detail I'll go to Mr. Heath.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Heath.

**MR. HEATH:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The air handling requirements and the technical requirements including those facilities makes it not feasible. Incrementally, it's a very expensive addition to add to facilities. We looked at it extensively to see how we could make it work, and really what we settled on is any new facilities we would build, we would include it; retrofitting old facilities is not feasible. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Heath. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister and Mr. Heath for the answer. I'm very disappointed, to put it point blank. There's no respect for the people who pass away here. I understand it costs money, but I guess the biggest challenge is: how are you going to be working with the communities to address this issue? Are you going to pay for the costs, transportation costs, for these bodies that have to be put out there, and how are you going to be working with the families with this?

I realize it's capital, and I probably won't get an answer here. I shouldn't be expecting an answer, but I'm quite disappointed in the fact that the

department isn't looking at putting in a morgue in this community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I'll allow it. Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's unfortunate the Member is upset. I appreciate his concern, but the bottom line is the air-handling systems to actually do this appropriately would be very, very cost prohibitive in our older health centres.

On a case-by-case basis we have worked with families to help with transportation costs. We look at every one. Every time we get asked to do that, we look at it to see what we can do, and in many cases we've been able to help families. Not always, but for the most part we do what we can to help.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Nothing further from Mr. Thompson. Next I have Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to start by asking a general question that relates to page 5, which is the multi-year plan for each of the departments.

Although the Minister has an ambitious plan to create new long-term care beds in each region as well as healthcare facilities, I notice that the investment goes down next year and the year after. I'm wondering how it's going to be possible to build all these additional beds when the investment is going down. Thank you

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, on page 5 what you see is basically a summary of previous years' projects that carry over in to multiple years that have already been approved by this Assembly, plus proposed projects for this fiscal year or 2018 fiscal year and the results of those projects moving forward.

It certainly doesn't include everything in our capital plan. For instance, if you look in this capital plan, in Inuvik you'll see one sum of money that we plan to use for our planning study this year because we have to do some permafrost tests, we have to do some site determination that will help us determine the cost of that facility, at which point we would be coming forward for a capital ask to get the full cost of construction included into the capital plan and then it would carry for subsequent years.

This basically just shows what was approved by this Assembly in previous years and what's proposed this year and their carryover costs. It does not include any additional costs related to

future projects, or some of the costs for things like the construction of Inuvik, because, frankly, we don't have those costs at this point. We need to do our work that the money is allocated for in 2018-2019 to help us actually build the cost and understand what that project is going to entail. This only shows approved and hopefully approved items and their carryovers.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Green. Mrs. Green. Ms. Green, sorry.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mrs. Chair. The question I have then relating to page 5: does that spending represent what's already been assigned to the hospital? Is that what that money is about? Thank you

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is included in there, as well as the costs of the projects that will be approved as a result of the 2018-2019 budget.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you. I'd like to turn now to page 36. The extended care facility, this is the one in the current Stanton is being expanded to 18 beds. When is this project going to be completed, please?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the plan for the extended care beds is that, once the new hospital is completed and the services are moved into the new building and the old hospital is vacated, we will then work with the property manager of that building, who will do the capital asset retrofits on that building to meet our specs and our needs.

Our costs on this would be structures and beds and other medical equipment, which is a capital purchase, but not necessarily the cost of doing the changes on that building. That should start, design is expected to start, in early 2018. Construction is expected in late 2019 after they move out of there, and we're hoping to be in there by eighteen months after we start the retrofit of that building to meet the extended care needs.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you very much for outlining that schedule. What I don't see here is the 72 beds that have been discussed for long-term care that I

understand will also be part of the old hospital. Could the Minister elaborate on when the equivalent work will be done for the long-term care beds as there are for the extended care? Thank you

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the scenario for those 72 long-term care beds is pretty much exactly the same as the scenario for the extended-care beds. We have to wait until they get out of the old hospital, then the property manager will do the retrofits on the building to meet the needs that we have identified for 72 long-term care beds, which will be funded through O and M. I think it's best to maybe go to Mr. Elkin for just a little bit more specifics on the technicalities around that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Elkin.

**MR. ELKIN:** Thank you. The negotiations with the property manager Ventura are such that we will end up paying any of the equipment costs, but all the costs of the 72 beds will be paid through O and M, so you won't see it in the capital plan, and as the Minister said, it'll be roughly 18 to 24 months after opening day of the new hospital.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you. That tells me why we don't see the 72 beds in here. Now, a number of years ago Avens did some site preparation to build a building that they called the pavilion, which was going to include long-term care beds, so how does that work into this plan? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we had had a number of discussions with Avens on the 48 beds, but in light of the fact that we have to accommodate or come up with a plan to address 258 beds across the Northwest Territories, not just in Yellowknife, and we wanted to be able to roll those out across the Territories as a whole as opposed to putting the 200 beds in Yellowknife immediately and then having a significant deficit across the Territories, we have decided to move forward with a plan, or we're proposing to move forward with a plan, that puts the 72 long-term care beds in Yellowknife with designing starting in January 2018, construction in fall 2019, and we're hoping those beds are available as soon as April 2021.



We're looking at 48 long-term care beds in Hay River for the South Slave. We're hoping to get that in the capital plan for this capital plan. Planning is going to begin immediately; design, March 2018. We're hoping to see construction in 2019 and beds available as soon as 2020. The money that's in here is the planning money for 48 long-term care beds in Inuvik. What we're hoping is to see that work done, permafrost studies, all those types of things done. Capital plan submission March 2018 for the 2019-2020 budget; designing 2019; construction 2020. Beds available as soon as April 2023.

Then we are looking at 48 long-term care beds, which is a net new 28 to replace, to move forward in Simpson as part of a long-term care facility and health centre. Feasibility study in October 2017. Capital plan submission, March 2019. Planning could start as soon as 2020. Design 2021, construction 2022. Beds available by 2026.

Then, the last in line, because we had dealt with Yellowknife first with the 72 beds, is 48 beds in the Avens compound. The project is required to meet the remaining 2026 bed requirements for the Northwest Territories.

Recognizing that we are moving forward with Avens later in the plan as opposed to the front of the plan, we have put money into this budget to construct a laundry facility and a kitchen facility to help them be sustainable over that time. Also, they approached us indicating that the cost of that site that they have blasted is proven to be difficult, and we have agreed to cover their cost, \$1.1 million for that site, so that they are no longer financially on the hook.

In discussions with Avens, it has become clear that they are certainly interested in exploring that site for other purposes, other needs. Avens is still part of the big plan.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Anything further, Ms. Green?

**MS. GREEN:** I will read Hansard to just make sure that I know exactly the dates that things are happening on. That was a whackload of information, but that is all good.

At the bigger level, was there any consideration given to putting the pavilion, what they call the pavilion, 48 beds, online first and retrofitting the hospital second instead of the other way around? Would that have been more cost effective and put the beds online sooner? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. There are 20 seconds left to answer this, and I will remind everyone that we do have the details to consider after the general comments. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I will do my best in 20 seconds, but with no guarantees. Bottom line is, we are trying to get value for money here, and trying to get as many beds in place as quickly as we can, and the opportunity of utilizing the old Stanton Building presented a significant opportunity to get a large number of beds in a very affordable manner, and increased a number of beds available to residents in the Northwest Territories.

The Avens, we did give them some planning money. The costs came in significantly higher than we anticipated, which was problematic, and was not going to move us necessarily much faster along on getting beds. We get more beds with the hospital than we did with Avens in a quicker time, and more affordable.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Next, I have Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have a general question, and I was cheered by the Minister's statement, and I applaud the Minister in terms of making efforts to support seniors to live in their own homes as long as possible. In that effort, he has stated that there has been some work done with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. We have always encouraged departments not to work in silos, to cooperate with other departments. In this case, in this instance, it seems that efforts had been made in that area.

Elders live in their own homes and, of course, those homes are occupied on land. Those were considered capital assets. What kind of arrangement, if any, has been discussed relating to homes in the hands of seniors, whether they can live in their own homes for as long as possible?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are a couple of different ways that we are supporting this. Some of this is through O and M and the department. We are looking at family or community caregivers. We are looking at enhanced homecare. We are looking at a number of different things within the department. The department has also worked very closely with the Housing Corporation. I applaud the Housing Corporation for the work they have done to try to put in more programs, to make them a little easier and a little bit more accessible for seniors to do some mods or retrofits on their houses so that they can stay in their houses longer. An individual may have some limited mobility but still be quite mobile and be able to stay in their house with a few little fixes, like ramps or other things.

I know the Minister, I have been in communities with the Minister when she said they work with the community to find ways to help with ramps and other things that will allow individuals to stay in their homes longer. It does take a partnership. It does take both departments working together with the goal of supporting aging in place, and the Housing Corporation, I feel, has stood up quite well.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is highly probable that that could serve as a classic example in terms of best practices of two departments working cooperatively in partnership. The other question that I have was: was there a formal understanding or arrangements between the two departments about perhaps scoping out just the partnership arrangement in terms of how it is that we are going to enable seniors to live in their own homes, and on land that is occupied, too? What I am drawing upon is that some elders unfortunately fall within the threshold of having to deal with some dilemmas, and one of them is arrears and outstanding land taxes and so forth. Would that perhaps scope of partnership arrangement cover that? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have had a good relationship with the Housing Corporation, and we have looked at things like I mentioned, like retrofitting. Not retrofitting, sorry. Our new independent living units have program space and those types of things. I don't actually know enough about the land lease question to answer that question fully, but I will commit to working with the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to get the answers that the Member is looking for.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. I see nothing further from Mr. Nadli. Next, I have Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have one question. I would like to know if the Minister could give me the status of the Lutselk'e Health Centre. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, a planning study has determined that the health and social services needs of the community of Lutselk'e can best be met by renovating and building an addition onto the existing health centre. That was a number of years ago; that was five

years ago, when that was done. That was pre-me. There was another Minister in at that time.

The building is meeting many of our program needs. The building is in good shape. It does not need to be completely replaced. Unfortunately, this was in the queue many years ago, and some other projects have bumped it along the way. I think the demands in Fort Resolution are an example, far outweigh the demands of Lutselk'e and Tulita right now, given the fact that we have got a building that is in really rough shape, and we have got concerns about pests and other animals in that building. The program needs were affected greatly, so it has kind of moved in front of Lutselk'e. Lutselk'e still needs to be done. We still need to do that retrofit and upgrade to include some additional program requirements to meet some of our infection control and other standards. It is still in the queue. It has not made it into the capital plan this year. We will certainly be looking at it every year to see when we can insert it back in.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that the chair rise, and report progress. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried.

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you to the Minister and your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

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

### Report of the Committee of the Whole

**MR. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 416-18(2) and would like to report progress; and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Masi. 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 Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 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 Commissioner's 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
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Committee Report 12-18(2), Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on the Progress Review of the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019
  - Minister's Statement 186-18(2), Update on the A New Day Program
  - Tabled Document 416-18(2), GNWT Capital Estimates 2018-2019
  - Tabled Document 419-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised)
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 Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned 5:38 p.m.

