



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

3rd Session

Day 23

18th Assembly

HANSARD

Friday, March 9, 2018

Pages 3767 – 3794

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker

Hon. Jackson Lafferty

(Monfwi)

Hon. Glen Abernethy

(Great Slave)

Government House Leader

Minister of Health and Social Services

Minister Responsible for Seniors

Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities

Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board

Mr. Tom Beaulieu

(Tu Nedhe-Willideh)

Mr. Frederick Blake

(Mackenzie Delta)

Hon. Caroline Cochrane

(Range Lake)

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Minister Responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Lead Responsibility for Addressing Homelessness

Ms. Julie Green

(Yellowknife Centre)

Hon. Bob McLeod

(Yellowknife South)

Premier

Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Hon. Robert McLeod

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

Deputy Premier

Minister of Finance

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

Lead Responsibility for Infrastructure

Mr. Daniel McNeely

(Sahtu)

Hon. Alfred Moses

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

Minister Responsible for Youth

Mr. Michael Nadli

(Deh Cho)

Mr. Herbert Nakimayak

(Nunakput)

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly

(Frame Lake)

Hon. Wally Schumann

(Hay River South)

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

Minister of Infrastructure

Hon. Louis Sebert

(Thebacha)

Minister of Justice

Minister of Lands

Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation

Minister Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency

Mr. R.J. Simpson

(Hay River North)

Mr. Kieron Testart

(Kam Lake)

Mr. Shane Thompson

(Nahendeh)

Mr. Cory Vanthuynne

(Yellowknife North)

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Tim Mercer

Deputy Clerk

Ms. Sarah Kay

Committee Clerks

Ms. Gail Bennett

Ms. Jennifer Franki-Smith (trainee)

Law Clerks

Ms. Sheila MacPherson

Mr. Glen Rutland

Ms. Alyssa Holland

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 767-9010 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	3767
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	3767
57-18(3) – Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Mandate Commitment Update and Strategic Renewal (Cochrane)	3767
58-18(3) – Minister Late for the House (B. McLeod).....	3768
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	3768
Dialysis Treatment in the Northwest Territories (Beaulieu)	3768
Recognition of Steven Squirrel (Thompson)	3769
Union of Northern Workers Negotiations (O'Reilly).....	3769
Giant Mine Remediation Project (Vanthuyne).....	3770
Procurement Policies and Issues (Testart)	3770
Housing Needs in Mackenzie Delta (Blake).....	3771
Congratulations to Yellowknife Day Care Association on New Facility(Green).....	3771
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	3772
ORAL QUESTIONS	3772
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	3783
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	3784
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	3792
ORDERS OF THE DAY	3792

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, March 9, 2018****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. Nakimayak, Mr. O'Reilly, Hon. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 10:02 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good morning, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 57-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING
CORPORATION MANDATE COMMITMENT
UPDATE AND STRATEGIC RENEWAL.**

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to report on the Government of the Northwest Territories' progress on its housing-related mandate commitments and on the strategic renewal process currently underway at the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

First, among the mandate commitments laid out by the Government of the Northwest Territories is a promise to address the cost of living, in part by continuing to implement northern solutions for northern housing and working to address homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, similar to the project that the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation delivered in partnership with the Yellowknife Women's Society that created eight new, semi-independent, safe and secure living spaces for homeless women, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is committed to expanding that initiative in Yellowknife by exploring a further partnership of comparable design for men who may require this support. Outside of Yellowknife, I am happy to report that the shelter unit in Fort Simpson is operational while the one in Behchoko is nearly complete, and we are working towards securing a unit in Aklavik. A four-bedroom unit was also provided to the community of Fort Good Hope for usage as a homeless shelter through the corporation's Community Housing Support Initiative.

Homelessness often arises after people have exhausted local housing options, and it becomes much more complicated to support the shelter needs of residents when they lose their housing stability through eviction. Focusing on prevention will ultimately lead to better outcomes for many, and, to this end, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will be launching a new pilot program in Behchoko. This program will dedicate a housing support worker to assist families with challenges that are bringing them close to eviction.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that some of the challenges in our market communities will be addressed through revisions to the rent supplement program and the introduction of the non-governmental organization rent supplement program. These programs should alleviate the large wait lists for public housing in our market communities and bring households out of core need by addressing affordability.

Addressing the cost of living and keeping elders in their own communities for as long as possible is a priority for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. In an attempt to address these concerns, we have removed the co-payment requirement for repair applicant households with incomes below \$60,000 and have removed peripheral contractor costs such as travel and contractor fees from our repair programs. We are also offering additional repair programs specifically geared towards seniors and completed a seniors' nine-plex in Whati. Seniors' complexes in Fort Good Hope and Fort McPherson are expected to be ready for occupancy before the end of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, another one of our mandate commitments is to dispose of our surplus units. So far this year, 31 units have been sold or have sales under way. Of the units that are deemed unsafe to sell, 20 have been demolished or are approved for demolition. All of these actions are expected to be completed by March 31, 2018.

Beginning in the new fiscal year, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will also pilot a community training program whereby the abatement of units will include working with the local housing organizations to hire youth to support the dismantling of buildings under the supervision

of local housing organizational staff. The objectives of this initiative are to allow local residents to be able to salvage components of a house, thereby helping to address the cost of living, and to provide local employment that also promotes the construction trades to youth.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation cannot successfully address all of the Territories' housing needs alone. The new Community Housing Support Initiative uses joint investment from the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Indigenous governments and community governments to support innovative housing projects. We have already seen this program at work with the Salt River First Nation, which has created two beautiful home ownership units, and we have had meetings with the K'atlodeeche First Nations to explore opportunities for home ownership programs and local maintenance opportunities. We have also committed to working with the City of Yellowknife as they work on their 10 year homelessness plan, and I attended an initial meeting where the city agreed to chair a homelessness committee. As well, we were pleased to provide support for the community housing plan developed by the Kasho Gotine Housing Society in Fort Good Hope and, as stated above, have provided them with a residence to be utilized as a homeless shelter. We have also received inquiries from other communities who have expressed interest in pursuing this program and were excited by the initiative and innovation shown by our communities.

In order to address our residents' housing needs, we also rely on effective partnership with the Government of Canada. I have met with federal officials to discuss the National Housing Strategy and the ongoing development of an Indigenous Housing Strategy. We are close to finalizing a multilateral agreement that will lay out the principles of the National Housing Strategy funding and how that funding will be used. I anticipate that program and allocation details will be available in the coming months, and I am hopeful that the unique context of the northern territories will be reflected in the national plan.

Mr. Speaker, discourse, sound analysis, and data need to inform our future direction. Therefore, the Housing Corporation will conduct a review of the public housing program, a seniors' planning study, an evaluation of the Government of the Northwest Territories' homelessness activities, and a review of the Housing Corporation rental rates for market units.

The Housing Corporation will also continue to support communities in the development of community housing plans, which will be a resource

for stakeholders and decision-makers in shaping the future of housing in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Strategic Renewal process is not yet complete. I will regularly update this House on our research, policy and program changes, new initiatives, and achievements as we work toward providing the programming and supports so that residents can obtain, maintain, and retain housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. The Honourable Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 58-18(3):
MINISTER LATE FOR THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Glen Abernethy will be late arriving in the House today due to a personal matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DIALYSIS TREATMENT IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak about dialysis treatment in the Northwest Territories. For those who don't know, dialysis is a treatment that removes waste and fluids from blood for people whose kidneys have stopped working. People with kidney failure depend on regular dialysis treatment at least three times per week, and the process usually takes about four or five hours each time. While the process is a necessity for kidney disease patients, it is unfortunately not a treatment that is offered in remote communities. For the majority of dialysis patients in the Northwest Territories, people must travel to either Yellowknife, Hay River, or Alberta to receive regular treatments.

Mr. Speaker, there is a recent report done by the Canadian Institute for Health Information that provided some disconcerting statistics about Indigenous patients who rely on dialysis in Canada. The report determined that one in five Indigenous patients must travel more than 250 kilometres to receive treatment. The report also determined that Indigenous patients experience higher hospitalization rates because they must travel longer distances to receive dialysis. Indigenous patients also have lower survival rates than non-Indigenous patients. These facts are particularly alarming because, here in the Northwest

Territories, half of our population is Indigenous and half of our population lives in remote communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories is not the only jurisdiction facing this issue. In fact, it's a nation-wide issue, which means that there are some ideas that we could utilize and implement here in the Northwest Territories. For example, in Alberta, people now have access to dialysis treatment on wheels, as their provincial government had the idea to retrofit buses and into a mobile dialysis units, where each unit costs about \$2.1 million to convert and they travel to all remote communities and deliver treatment. Another idea is to provide people with the tools and capacity to deliver dialysis treatment within their own homes, although this might be difficult in remote communities, as it requires a constant supply of clean, running water and a reliable energy source.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, ultimately no one, especially a sick and aging person, should face the options of either having to leave their home community for a life-dependent treatment or staying at home and dying. Our people should be given the opportunity to receive dialysis within their home communities, or at the very least closer than the centres of Yellowknife, Hay River, and Alberta. I strongly urge our government to examine mobile dialysis treatment centres in order to create better access for people who need it. Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF STEVEN SQUIRREL

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a member of the community of Fort Simpson, Steven Squirrel. Mr. Squirrel has operated the water treatment plant in Fort Simpson for over 40 years. That's right, 40 years. He's committed to doing this job.

As of July 7, 2017, Steven has hit his 40-year mark and continues to work in the water treatment plant. He's currently training somebody to take over after he's ready to retire.

Steven's role as the water treatment plant operator is a 24/7 commitment. Beyond regular operating hours, Steve responds to call-outs at all hours of the night and day regarding frozen or broken water lines. Sometimes, individuals cannot contact Steve

via telephone and have to go to his home at all hours of the night, but he is very quick to respond.

Considering Steven's 40-year history at the water plant from 1977 to 2017, he has had the chance to watch it grow and change with the times. From manual hauling and dissolving of chemicals in powder form, to now a fully automated system, Steven has done it all. He continues to update his certification and is always willing to learn new water treatment practices that have come available.

Mr. Speaker, Steve has won numerous awards for the quality of the water he's treated and monitored. I would have to say it's the best-tasting water from what I have tasted in my lifetime.

Steve is very career- and family- oriented. He has been happily married to his wife for 38 years, Loretta Squirrel. Steven and Loretta have five children and eight grandchildren. He spends most of his time off with them, whether it's visiting in communities around or the territories. Mr. Speaker, it is the commitment of residents like Steven Squirrel that has kept our communities running strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON UNION OF NORTHERN WORKERS NEGOTIATIONS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Today I would like to set out my position on collective bargaining, the Union of Northern Workers negotiations, and MLA compensation. Collective bargaining began to be used in 1891 to describe negotiations and agreements that were used in Great Britain following the rise of organized labour. Collective bargaining is recognized as a fundamental human right in Article 23 of the 1948 UN Declaration on Human Rights.

Our workers thus have the right to organize and bargain collectively. I respect that right and truly wish for a freely negotiated agreement for the UNW. However, I also need to be clear that, as a Regular MLA, I have not been asked for my views and have not had any input into the mandate being put forward by Cabinet as part of the Union of Northern Workers negotiations. I have requested updates and generally been provided with information, but Cabinet has not sought my views, although I have expressed concerns. While I am pleased that a number of issues have been resolved, I must be clear that I do not support Cabinet's current wage offer, and the last adjustment of an increase in the offer of 0.1 per cent in the fourth year is a provocative move. Any offer that is significantly less than the Consumer

Price Index increases is unfair and unlikely to get us any closer to an agreement.

Whenever the issue of the wage offer is discussed, the conversation inevitably turns to compensation for MLAs. Whenever politicians discuss their own compensation, it is a "no win" situation, which is one of the reasons why we appoint an independent commission to study the issue and receive a public report before decisions are made that then only apply to the next Assembly. While MLAs agreed very early in our mandate to a two-year temporary freeze on compensation, I cannot and do not support a continued freeze that would require an amendment to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. For me, the issue is not one of self-interest, but a continued freeze would be an endorsement of Cabinet's fiscal strategy of cutting programs and services to fund infrastructure. If there had been a serious effort to consider the revenue side of the fiscal equation, I might feel differently. Cabinet has undertaken no serious efforts to review revenues, especially from our newly acquired authority under devolution. At least two independent experts have recommended a review of revenues from mining, but Cabinet has chosen to ignore these calls to action.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the House for permission to continue.

Constituents of Frame Lake have asked my position on these issues and I am now on the public record. I recognize this statement may not be popular with some of my colleagues in this House, but I owe it to my constituents and all of our employees to make my position clear. Mahsi Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night I attended a forum on the Giant Mine Remediation Project. I learned a lot about Giant, and it made me think about mining, our economy, and how we need to adapt mining practices to the 21st Century.

Members know that I am pro-mining. I have said recently that I believe that we can develop mines safely while being respectful to the environment. I believe we can enjoy the economic benefits without

paying the same heavy price as in the past, but for that to happen, we need to learn the lessons of Giant Mine and learn what it is teaching us.

Giant and Con Mines were instrumental in establishing the Northwest Territories as we know it. From the 1930s until the end of the century, Giant produced over 7 million ounces of gold. At today's prices, that is over \$9 billion in value. That wealth attracted many outsiders to the North, including my father. Many people settled here and built homes and families in what is now the capital city.

Moving into the future is done best if we learn from the mistakes of the past. Plenty of mistakes were made at Giant, and our community and the land still bear the scars. Our Indigenous neighbours weren't consulted about the mines or invited to share in the wealth. Today, we recognize the error and unfairness of that practice, and Aboriginal governments will be owners and full partners in the future.

The environment was an afterthought in those days. We believed the earth had an unlimited capacity absorb our garbage and heal herself. Now we know that that's not true. We are still living with the environmental damage caused by 50-plus years of overturning the earth. There was social damage, too, from corporate profiteering and labour unrest. Long-time Yellowknifers remember the deep social divisions caused by the Giant Mine strike in 1992 and the deaths that resulted. A lot of mistakes were made, Mr. Speaker, but now we are cleaning up the mess. More importantly, we are learning the lessons of our experience.

New technologies will allow us to dig without leaving a mess behind. Projects must have full partnership with Aboriginal governments. Instead of being dragged into environmental sustainability, industry is leading the way. New practices use less water, reduce power consumption, and make projects green.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can move forward with sustainable mining, and our economy needs us to, but it is the 21st Century and we must do it differently. We have the knowledge, and we have the technology. We just need to use the lessons of the past to build a more prosperous and sustainable future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND ISSUES

MR. TESTART: Merci, Monsieur le President. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, I am bringing concerns from my constituents around procurement directly to the floor of the House, because it appears the Minister isn't listening when business owners are bringing these concerns directly to his department, or to him in this case. I met with a constituent just last week who had met with the Minister, the Minister heard the concerns, and yet nothing has been done.

Mr. Speaker, these concerns are quite simple: that northern businesses don't feel that the playing field is being levelled by government procurement policies. They still have to compete with southern companies that have been grandfathered into existing procurement policies that can make use of southern supply chains, which means cheaper materials, cheaper labour, and more access to capital to finance projects and move forward on these procurement policies.

Northerners deserve to get a break on this. They are often small and want to grow their businesses. The ones who are benefitting from the policies can maintain status quo in some cases, but they can't actually expand their businesses, grow their workforce, and ultimately create jobs for Northerners, which is a stated goal of this Assembly and should be a stated goal for any Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

What is the point of these procurement policies if it's just paperwork? That is a concern I hear constantly, that we have yet to build clarity or simplicity into the process. What it means for most small business owners is that they are filling out mountains of paperwork to get the ability to play in the government's procurement sandbox, and they often don't have the resources to compete even after doing all those procurement exercises.

Mr. Speaker, I hear consistently that it should be harder for southern and non-resident businesses to compete in the Northwest Territories, that our policies should be protecting northern interests, not protecting the government's bottom line. It is important to be prudent with our resources, but we must also ensure those resources are flowing to Northerners and helping grow our economy and support the costs of living for business owners who operate in a very expensive environment.

I will have more questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment as the day goes on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HOUSING NEEDS IN MACKENZIE DELTA

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories suffers as a whole with housing needs. Families are on a long waiting list because of a lack of units or, rather than applying for their own units, they choose to stay with their family members.

Mr. Speaker, in all of the communities of the Mackenzie Delta riding -- Aklavik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic -- we know our community population is rising. We want to see our communities grow and benefit economically. We as a government need to keep on top of the housing needs for our people.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that each of our departments is on a budget. However, Mr. Speaker, there is no need for families to be living in old housing units where there are traces of mould, and some units that have no proper heating. These are just unsafe living conditions.

Tsiigehtchic has great expectations for youth who are growing and learning, Mr. Speaker. We expect our children to attend school on a daily basis. They are eager and excited to learn. We need to ensure that they have healthy homes, free from mould and with proper heating, and most importantly, give our families a reason to live at home, to live in our smaller communities, and to work with and for us. We can't do this if families are discouraged with little or no housing units.

The Government of the Northwest Territories needs to look at alternative solutions, either major renovations or new up-and-coming units. On another note, Mr. Speaker, Tsiigehtchic residents have to apply for a housing unit through the Inuvik Housing Authority. We don't have a local housing authority in Tsiigehtchic, Mr. Speaker. This has to change. We need somewhere in our community that we can go to, stand in front of a board to raise our concerns about housing issues, voice our concerns about the need for units, and somewhere that a board can make decisions for Tsiigehtchic because they live in the community and are from the community and know what is required for our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONGRATULATIONS TO YELLOWKNIFE DAY
CARE ASSOCIATION ON NEW FACILITY

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to salute the Yellowknife Day Care Association on the recent opening of their new and expanded facility on 52nd Street in the heart of Yellowknife Centre.

The association has been around since 1981, occupying the building on 51st Street that has at times been an RCMP detachment, a government office, and even a liquor store. The association got its eviction notice from ECE in 2016, along with an offer of support to find a new home. Work began on the development of an enlarged and purpose-built daycare with all the client care, programming, and safety features of a modern design, and the facility officially opened on January 19th.

The new two-storey centre has more than 900 square metres of space, including four nursery rooms, a multi-purpose activity room, classrooms, a kitchen, preschooler rooms, and full staff and administrative accommodations. With the expansion, the non-profit is licensed to serve 104 children, including 32 baby spaces, 56 preschooler spaces, and 16 after-school spaces.

My colleagues will be interested to hear the following information. Not only is the Yellowknife Day Care the largest childcare provider in Yellowknife, but with the expansion, there was an increase of eight new full-time staff for a total of 25 full- and part-time jobs in that centre, a boon to our economy, and an addition of skilled child practitioners in childcare. This is the home of a vibrant, friendly, active, and interactive team ready to help children learn in a warm, fun, and friendly environment where they are free to laugh, climb, run, talk, dig, explore, and interact.

Special credit for the successful expansion goes to the association's hardworking volunteer board, led by President Kristal Melanson, with the administrative support of Executive Director Marine Voskanyan. President Melanson makes special note of the contributions of Yellowknife's PSAV Architects, the Clark Builders construction team, and to ECE for supplying equipment and furnishing and expedited licensing. There will be a further fundraiser in the year to furnish the yard. I will keep Member's informed of when to reach for their chequebooks.

Congratulations to Yellowknife Day Care Association and all the best for more decades of service. Mahsi.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to recognize some very important people up in the gallery. The little guy there is my grandson Colin Wainman, five years old. My granddaughter Ms.

Morgan McLeod is seven years old. My grandson Rylan Wainman is 11 years old. My wife Judy I have been married for 38 years. I am very pleased to have them visiting us here in the gallery and watching our proceeding. Try not to ask too many questions with my grandchildren right here.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery, welcome to our Assembly. It is always great to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Hay River North.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 228-18(3): ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS ON LAND OWNED BY NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY LIMITED

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2016 the Government of the Northwest Territories purchased NTCL and all the lands that came with it. There are substantial tracts of lands in Hay River that came with that purchase. We have had questions in this House about what is going to happen with those lands. Last I heard, there were environmental assessments happening on some of the prioritized sites. I would like an update from the Minister of Infrastructure on what environmental assessments have been done and on which former NTCL lands, particularly in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is working in company with the Department of Infrastructure to carry out environmental assessments on property formerly owned by NTCL. ENR has completed environmental assessments of the Government of the Northwest Territories' shipyard and marine terminal lots in Hay River.

The lots were assessed, including operating sites under Schedule 7 party to the Northwest Territories Land and Resources Devolution Agreement. These sites were a high priority for assessment. The final Phase I and II ESA report is due March 16, 2018. ENR will share the findings with the Department of Infrastructure once available. Future remediation plans will depend on the outcome of these assessments.

ENR and Infrastructure are also conferring regarding former NTCL properties at Norman Wells, Inuvik, and Tuktoyaktuk. These sites will be determined and prioritized based on the assessment in 2018-2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: Could the Minister be a little more specific and maybe outline which sites in Hay River? I know there are a lot of waterfront sites there. There are a lot in Old Town in my riding. I would like a little more specificity if he can.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The synchro-lift down at the site right along the lake has been done; Hay River barge storage area, which is also along the waterfront down in Old Town; and eight Hay River water lots, leased lots along inner harbour, as well.

MR. SIMPSON: I am glad that those are the sites they are looking at first. That is some prime real estate. It is beautiful down there in Old Town, especially right on the channel. Based on the initial findings, I know it is not complete and they don't have the final report. Does the department have an estimate, even a ballpark figure, for what it might cost to remediate these sites?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I think this is early days yet. We get the assessments back to put a price tag on these. Once that comes in somewhere, I can share that with the Member.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that, the last time I asked these questions, the Minister stated there was a best land-use management plan that is coming out later this year. I guess that will inform when we can start disposing of these lots. I drive by the synchro-lift quite often just to see what is going on. I see there has been lots of work done. Can the Minister maybe talk about the sort of work that has been done at the synchro-lift site to address the environmental hazards that were inherited when the government purchased that site? Thank you.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Significant amount of clean-up work has been done at the Hay River shipyard site last year. We worked closely with the Department of Workers' Compensation to ensure that health and safety concerns to the public and employees would be mitigated appropriately and to develop a plan and a timeline that the site's assessments, including human health and ecological risk assessments, to include long-term progressive remediation goals would take place. We worked closely with them.

We did some early clean-up around there around some I guess we would want to call it low-hanging fruit that had to be done immediately. We spent a significant amount of money doing that. That will be staged out in the years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 229-18(3):
LAND VALUE ASSESSMENTS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of confusion on how lots are assessed in the NWT. People assume it is Lands. We have now been told that this is the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' responsibility. Can the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs please explain why the department has been assigned this task? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member's question about why we have been assigned this task is a little bit confusing. I don't know the history on why Municipal and Community Affairs was assigned that. My guess would be that we are Municipal and Community Affairs and our job is to make sure that the communities have the supports that they need. Assessing them would be considered one of those supports. Again, though, I wasn't here back in the day when it was originally assigned to Municipal and Community Affairs

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. I have been hearing other information. It has been good. I will use the Minister's information and my colleagues' information to help understand the history of it. My next question is: I know in Fort Simpson I have heard assessments going up double from the previous years and nothing has been done to the lot. I have asked a number of people why this has come about and why values have increased. I have received different answers. Can the Minister please explain the process of how the department comes up with the value of the lot?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The assessment of the properties is done by the value of the land and any assets that are located on the land as the MLA has stated that he has seen taxes go up without any improvements done. There are two types of property assessments. There is one that is done on an annual basis. That captures changes to the existing property, such as if there are renovations, additions, et cetera. Then there is a general assessment that is completed at least once every 10 years. That updates the value of the land and improvements from the date of the last general assessment.

Like I said, there are two different assessment processes. Some communities just happen to get in that position where the general tax assessment is increased. The City of Yellowknife went through that a couple years ago, I believe.

MR. THOMPSON: Just from hearing that answer and hearing the Minister of Lands in previous sittings here, do improvements on the land help or increase the value of the land that is presently there?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, the assessment to land is taking into consideration not only the land, but all infrastructure that is on the land. I will use Yellowknife. If you buy a lot in Yellowknife, you might be looking at a couple of hundred thousand, but once you put a trailer onto that or a unit onto that, it does increase the market value of that property. That is taken into consideration.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much to the Minister for that answer. I guess my next question is: in regard to Commissioner's land and territorial lands within municipal boundaries, are they taxed with the assessment value? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: All lands are taxed, except there are some exemptions. So for a complete listing of the properties that are exempt, you would have to go into the PATA, but things such as land claims agreements would impact that, as well. So, there are exemptions to taxable properties, usually by land agreements, Aboriginal government agreements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 230-18(3): PROCUREMENT POLICIES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment about, you guessed it, procurement. Obviously, businesses continue to come forward, business owners continue to come forward. How is the department using procurement policies to level the playing field with southern companies that are doing business in the Northwest Territories, to give a competitive edge to northern businesses? Thank you.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier said in the House previously, BIP was probably the best policy ever created by the Government of the Northwest Territories. BIP allows northern businesses and northern registered businesses that opportunity to give them that extra advantage on southern

procurement of companies that are not BIP, and it is a significant amount that gives us leverage as the Northwest Territories to protect northern businesses.

MR. TESTART: It is interesting that the Minister is so confident in BIP's success because all the concerns I hear are about BIP. I already know he is not willing to reform BIP, to do a review of BIP to take action on these concerns. So, given the high-profile nature of several procurement issues -- I am talking about the Housing Corporation modular project in Hay River that the failure of the procurement policy resulted in the loss of 40 full-time jobs, a Minister's riding, by the way, Mr. Speaker, and, of course, the NTPC power generators ongoing affair, which is at least half a million dollars of government funding that has gone to that -- do these high-profile issues convince the Minister that we need to take a look at how we procure things so that we can save some money and save some jobs?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The Member throws a lot of comments out there. There are a lot of issues around both of these procurement issues, and I am not going to talk about it in this House because that is privy information. He is throwing stuff out there that is not realistic to the rest of the policy that helps northern businesses under the BIP policy. Our preference is to continue with the way we do business, and I have said it in this House a number of times: we are going to continue to the way we do business and follow our policies.

MR. TESTART: One of the issues with BIP is that it only applies to the first \$500,000 on procurement contracts. Is the Minister willing to be flexible with that amount so that businesses that are looking to take on larger projects, who are northern-owned and operated, can receive greater benefits from procurement?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I have said in this House before: I came from private business. I was there my whole life. I have done procurement with the Government of the Northwest Territories my whole life. I have bid on projects for various amounts from \$1 to over \$1 million. The BIP procurement policy protects northern businesses to a significant amount, but at the same time we are here to protect the public purse, and we will continue to do that. As a businessperson previous to being in this House, I believe the policy is there in a meaningful way to help protect us and give us a leg up, and I believe it is significant, and I will stick to that.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the Minister's clarity of purpose on this. There are a number of companies that are grandfathered in or are meeting a 50 per cent requirement that are still either owned in part or owned entirely by southern companies that can benefit from southern supply chains, so we are giving those companies a 20 per cent markup through their northern preference, even though they can double dip, so to speak, and benefit from southern markets. Is the Minister willing to look at those requirements and the list of grandfathered companies that are benefitting from southern supply chains and take that into account when looking at potential reform for this policy? Thank you.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: We continue to review all of our policies and make sure they are doing the support to business in the Northwest Territories. The Member has brought up an issue that I have not heard about. No one has come to me saying there is a disadvantage, being these companies that are grandfathered in. This is something that is new to me and, if he is glad to come down to my office and have a discussion about that, I would be willing to sit down with him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 231-18(3):
MODULAR HOUSING UNITS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. In the last session, you may recall a number of my colleagues and I talked about modular homes, specifically about the contractor's failure to deliver all of the units by last summer, as the contract specified. Last we heard, the Minister was making alternative arrangements to complete and deliver these units. Can she please provide an update, and I will break this down into pieces, first on the three units that were partially complete when they were delivered to Ulukhaktok? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, the original plan was to have 19 buildings from the Concept Energy. At this point, we are proceeding with the completion of 14 of those units. I do not know if all of them have been tendered out yet. I do know that five of the projects have been deferred because, there were two communities, one community was we had worked with the MLA and private market-holders who had expressed interest in building in that community,

and so we try not to disturb the market within communities. Another one, we worked with the MLA because, I believe, they would be market units, and it was determined that those units were not necessary in that community at that time. So we are working with them all. The three units that were started, those were the easier ones, so I believe they have been tendered out, and they will be completed.

MS. GREEN: Thank you for that response, to the Minister. I would just like to get a little more detail. So, of these 14 units that have or will be tendered out, what are the completion times on that?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Some of the units are in process now. The majority are being conducted right away. Northern communities have a little bit more of a struggle because of the winter, because of the weather. A lot of them will be started with the warming of the weather. All units will be completed by the end of this annual year.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister has had some time to reflect on how this contract kind of went awry, what are the lessons that she is taking away from this experience?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: So, the allocating of these 19 units was at the beginning of my term a couple of years ago, and I do appreciate the Member saying: what lessons did I derive from that experience. It's important to look on the things that we do and to reflect and to make sure that we make better decisions in the future. I believe in northern houses for northern people, done by northern contractors, so my initial goal was to actually have those units as a manufacturing strategy. There are a lot of modular units that come from the south, especially in our community of Yellowknife, that are sold and the money is not staying here; it's going south. So the initial idea was to be able to build that industry within the Northwest Territories. It would bring jobs to communities. It would keep the money in our community. It would be spread throughout. It would bring apprenticeships and lots of opportunities.

The idea, though, was not a failure in the process. It was a business failure, Mr. Speaker. I learned from it that, if we are going to be start doing manufacturing, we need to start small so we don't set people up to fail. We need to provide better supervision of the units, but I haven't discounted it. I will still look for ways to ensure that we can promote manufacturing in the territories and promote jobs and keep our money in the north.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's answer. One of the debates we had at the time that contract was going to go out was the relative advantages of module homes versus stick-built homes. Given what she has learned from this contract, does the Minister now have a preference for one kind of housing over the other? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: That was another lesson that was learned actually. We still need to have diversity in our options for housing. There is still a cost savings for residents to be able to access module units versus stick-built units. There's a substantial savings with that.

We had some difficulty actually getting those units, completed or half-completed ones, onto the barges. So we did learn, and the expense was more than we expected because of the barging and the cost with that. What we have learned through that is that module units are easily done within the southern communities where we don't have to barge them and where we don't have to deal with the transportation. We need to re-look at that within communities that aren't accessible by road, although I do want to state that Inuvik still has some buildings that are looking at module. I know that IRC might be looking at modules. It's not something that we're writing out of the northern communities. It's just we have to look at accessibility into those communities and the cost factors to getting them and then apply that to a cost analysis, module units versus stick-built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 232-18(3):
HOUSING AUTHORITIES IN COMMUNITIES

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a follow-up to my Member's statement. I have a couple of questions for the Minister responsible for Housing. I would like to ask the Minister, it actually came up in my constituency meeting. We had leaders in the community, the chief and mayor and also the president of the Designated Gwich'in Organization who brought up the issue that they would like to see a housing authority in Tsiigehtchic board actually set up in the community with members from the community to make decisions that are needed in the community.

I would like to ask the Minister: will the Minister ensure the community of Tsiigehtchic will have a housing authority board in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct. The best solutions for communities are actually to have the services within the community. It's not the best service to be outside. Those in the community know the situations. They know the strengths and the challenges of community members, so I would like to see a board in Tsiigehtchic as well.

We do have a local housing organization in Tsiigehtchic with a manager. The difficulty has been the board. In 2013, actually, we met with the community and we talked about a board. Out of those people in attendance, only one person actually stated that they wanted a board at that time.

We also put out a call for board members and we didn't get enough interest. That's not okay, though. I mean, that was four years ago, almost five years ago, so it's time to do another one. We actually are going into Tsiigehtchic on March 27 and at that point, again, we will be discussing the board, finding out if the residents want the board. I'm hearing the MLAs saying they want the board, and trying to gain interest from member communities to sit on that board. That seems to be a little bit of a harder challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: I'm sure there are no problems finding people to sit on the board. I think what we need to do is make the community aware. You know, when a department is coming into the community, it's always important that it's outside in the community, whether it's on the CBC, the afternoon radio show that everyone listens to. We have to make sure that there are people out there who are aware of this meeting that's taking place. Will the Minister ensure that there is proper community communication and also put it on CBC Radio?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Again, the Member is right. We need to communicate better and we need to communicate with the communities when we are going into their communities. I know that there are some communities that listen adamantly to the question period within the House. I'm hoping that those who hear will spread the word that we are coming on March 27. I'm hoping that the MLA, when he returns to the community, will spread the word that we are coming on March 27. I do state that we will make sure that we have adequate communications going into the community to make sure that as many community members as possible know that we are coming in on March 27.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. March 27, it is. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again I will have to do the

communications for the department. I seem to be having to do this for a lot of the departments, whether it's Infrastructure or other departments that are having these community meetings. I know it's a shame that we don't use whether it's Facebook or, you know, everybody's on Facebook. I know you do it. Some of the departments use Twitter, but not everybody is on Twitter. You know, especially road conditions and other things like this. You know, people really appreciate that. Will the Minister make sure that they use social media to actually get out and let people know when they are coming to the communities? Not only for Tsiigehtchic but Fort McPherson, Aklavik, and other communities throughout the Mackenzie Delta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I don't know how many times I'm going to say today that the Member is right. Communications is an issue. Communications is something we need to work on. We recognize that within the Housing Corporation.

We have a lot of changes to the programs, and the public still isn't aware. We have sent out letters to the municipalities and to the Aboriginal governments. I went into the community of Fort Simpson the other day, and I looked on the bulletin board at the band office, I believe, and it wasn't there. I did give direction as soon as I got back. I said, "Send out more notices," like let people know that. We are looking at a total communications strategy, whether that uses newspapers. I don't use Twitter, either, although I hear I have a Twitter account; Facebook; I'm not so sure everyone accesses the NWT Housing Association's website, but we're working on improving it anyway.

We are looking at a total communications plan to let people know. It's no sense having programs that people don't understand what's out there and the changes. So, yes, I will make sure in the meantime that the March 27 date is posted on my personal Facebook and I will ask the MLA if he would consider posting it on his personal Facebook, as well. I promise I will get him the messaging. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 233-18(3):
FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS FOR
HOUSING

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are also on spending money on housing, but they are not for my friend the Minister of Finance or for the Minister of Housing Corporation. They're for the Minister of Infrastructure, because he helped announce \$570 million in federal infrastructure funding earlier this week.

In our Committee of the Whole review of the NWT Housing Corporation, I asked questions of the Housing Corporation on what proportion of the new funds will be applied to the \$67 million cost of taking our housing out of core need. I looked at the funding announcements. Some of those pots of money could certainly be used for housing. I am asking the Minister of Infrastructure whether he can confirm what proportion of the federal Infrastructure funds he announced earlier this week will be applied to addressing housing core needs, and if no funds, why not? Masi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct. There is no funding for housing under the bilateral that we signed earlier this week with the federal Minister, but the federal government is going to be announcing other streams under the Investing in Canada plan that will provide funding for housing for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that. I look forward to these other announcements. I sort of anticipated that he would say that the \$36 million over 10 years under the National Housing Strategy would cover off our housing needs, but, of course, that small amount really can't help us with our core housing needs, which have been calculated at \$67 million. Where are the funds going to come from, and why can't we use some of the federal infrastructure funding that the Minister announced earlier this week?

Can the Minister explain whether there are any legal or funding guideline requirements that prevent us from applying for and using these new federal infrastructure funds for housing, or is this a political decision, one that Cabinet has already made?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The \$180 billion in infrastructure funding provided by the Investing in Canada plan is being delivered under a series of different funds, but there are a bunch of different criteria and eligibility requirements around this for federal outcomes for project eligibility, and the agreement that we signed, unfortunately, does not provide any opportunity for investment in housing.

MR. O'REILLY: I would like to thank the Minister for that. If there is some way that he could share the funding guidelines or more information about that with me, I would appreciate that very much. Can the Minister tell us whether any of the newly announced federal infrastructure funding will be allocated to or delivered through the Arctic Energy Alliance, and if so, how much and over what period of time?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: In total, with the \$760 million that we are going to be leveraging with our portion and the federal portion, a significant amount of this is eligible for energy projects through the Northwest Territories, and we will be going through those specific details once we start getting into more detail of our applications around this money. There are also going to be other pots of money available for these sorts of things under the Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth, and there will be an opportunity for energy projects in there.

As I stated, I think, earlier this week in the House, around the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund and our application that we have put in, there is going to be additional support for Arctic Energy Alliance, and hopefully we are going to hear back on that in the coming weeks.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I'd like to thank the Minister for that response. Again, my questions are really focused on the funding announcement that he made in the Great Hall here earlier this week. I know there are other funding pots out there, but I want to know about the \$570 million that was announced earlier this week. Can the Minister tell us whether there is a full plan to spend this money and if that plan can be made public? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The projects that we have lined up for 2018-2019, the Department of Infrastructure expects to prepare and submit to Infrastructure Canada early in this fiscal year.

The other thing I guess other Members maybe didn't realize is that, when we signed the agreement here on Wednesday, we were the very first ones in Canada to sign our bilateral agreement, so we are the first out of the gate. With that going forward, the projects that we want to do early in this coming fiscal year, we are going to have to come back for supplementary funding in the House in the May sitting for the projects that are moving forward. We are going to be going through the regular capital plan process going forward for the next projects in the coming years coming out, but I plan to keep MLAs informed on where we are in this process going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 234-18(3):
NORMAN WELLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am appointing myself the honorary Member for the Sahtu, and I have the following

questions on the fire department in Norman Wells for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. First of all, could she please update this House on the status of the fire department in Norman Wells? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must state that the Member looks very good today. The fire department in Norman Wells is something that I will have to look into. I will get back to her with that answer. It is a municipal issue; it is not a territorial issue. We provide support to the community governments. They are responsible for actually developing and maintaining their fire departments. We provide training and support for fire departments, but we don't actually look after the day-to-day operations of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I am aware that the municipality of Norman Wells runs its own fire department, but clearly there is a problem there that has resulted in a "pause" in the operation of the fire department. My question is really: what kind of assistance can the Minister offer the municipality of Norman Wells to ensure that residents are protected from fire if one were to occur?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: We try to support the community governments as best as possible. Some communities do have the funding, actually, tax income, market income, the money that we give to communities, that they can actually put it in their capital plans and have fire departments full-fledged with full-time fire chiefs. Some communities only have part-time fire chiefs. Some communities don't have any; they have volunteer fire departments.

Therefore, we provide a range of training for them. We specialize in our first responder training, actually, so we work with communities that don't have any fire departments to actually give them the skills. There is quite a bit of training that we provide regarding fire training, recognizing that there is a difference within each community on the needs for training and the abilities of the communities.

The other thing that we do is we work within their capital planning on an annual basis. We work closely with them to determine what they see their needs are in the future, again recognizing that it is not our delegation. We work with the communities for them to determine what their needs are. If they decide that they want a fire department and they don't have the resources, we will work within their capital planning on an annual basis to see how much money they would need and how many years that they would need to be able to save for that,

and then we will use that to actually apply for federal funding for capital assets.

MS. GREEN: I am failing to engage the Minister in any sense of urgency on this issue. My understanding is that this community is currently without fire protection. People are obviously worried about what would happen if there was a fire. They are also worried that their insurance may be invalid because there is no operating fire department. Can the Minister assure me that, when she leaves this Chamber, she will go and call the village of Norman Wells and find out how she can assist them to get their fire department back on track?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The questions that were asked of me did not say that I wasn't working. I don't believe that I am failing at addressing the issue. I do know that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is actually working diligently on this issue at this time. We are supporting the community. We are assessing their needs and their situations. That I do know. Our job is to support the communities. When we hear there is an issue, we are in there to see what we can do for support.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister has now provided a more clear and forceful response on this question, but my question still remains: what would happen if there was a fire in Norman Wells? God forbid, but if there was a fire in Norman Wells, how would the community respond if they put their fire department on hold? I know that the Minister is working at arm's length on this, but I would like to hear that there is a plan for response and that it's going to take effect immediately. Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated in my first answer, I don't know the status today. If I had gotten notice, I would have actually looked that up to see what we are doing and where the situation is of today.

I do want to emphasize, though, that community members care about their communities. If I see my neighbour's house burning, I am not going to stand around and sit there and watch and clap. I'm going to do what I can to be able to provide that service. In communities, we have community members who care as well. They will not allow that to happen. They will do whatever the best they can. We have various services. Some communities have trained firefighters who live in communities. We have airports in some communities that will actually respond to that. We will make sure we have an emergency response plan. We will provide the best services that we can to ensure that communities don't burn down. I am not going to let communities

go without any fire support services, even if they don't have a fire department.

As stated earlier, many of our communities do not have fire departments and yet those communities have community members of various abilities who come together in times and need and help their community. That's where they live. Those are their parents, their families, their elders. I have trust in our community members and the services that are provided through other resources that we will take care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 235-18(3):
PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask some follow-up questions not to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, but the Minister of Lands in regards to assessment. In this House, the Minister said that they do their least payments based on the assessments done by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Can the Minister advise this House if this is the actual process that is being done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have mentioned previously, lessees are charged assessed value of land, and on the territorial lands it's 10 per cent of appraised value. Now, I don't know the method which MACA uses to arrive at these assessments, but I think there's a scientific way in which they do arrive at the assessments of the property. Of course, on that assessment is based the lease fees. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. Can the Minister clarify: does the Department of Lands get two separate assessments, one for lands itself or one with lands and improvements on it?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Of course, our fees are based on the value of the lands, so the assessed or appraised value of the lands is the number we're interested in, and on that number, we base the lease fees.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that clarification. There seems to be a disconnect here, because my understanding from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs that they assess the land based on the land and the improvements on it. Now I'm hearing from the Department of Lands here, it's just on the land itself. Can the Minister please clarify: is this the correct process?

Is this what they do? Is it based on the lands, and if it is on land, do they have a separate assessment done?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I can't speak for MACA, but I believe the way that assessments are usually done is that there's a division between land and buildings. For example, if you receive an assessment for taxation purposes from your municipality, there's a breakdown showing how much is assessed for the land and how much is for the building. I believe that's the way that MACA does it, but the Minister may know more about that than I do.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that answer from the Minister. Is the Minister willing to share with me the land assessments of lots in my riding, so that I can share this information with the residents? Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Normally, Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't do that, but generally in each community, you can go to the tax rules and find out what the assessments are. In that way, you could determine what the values placed on land and buildings are. I believe every municipality has that information available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At least the tax-based municipalities. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 236-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FIRE
DEPARTMENT STANDARDS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up those questions which I asked about the fire department in Norman Wells. My question is about whether the department is working on standards for fire departments across the Northwest Territories. I understand that that is not currently in place. Is the Minister taking steps to standardize fire department funding and operations across the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are standards for fire provision within the Northwest Territories. Our Office of the Fire Marshal works closely with the communities to develop safety plans in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I'm talking more about fire departments. As I think we're all aware, firefighting

is a dangerous undertaking. I appreciate the Minister's response that community members are willing to pitch in. I think that having trained firefighters is a better solution.

It's my understanding there aren't trained firefighters in every Northwest Territories community, so I'm wondering whether the Minister is considering making changes to ensure that there are fire departments and trained firefighters up and running in every community?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated, the responsibility for fire departments is the municipalities', and we work closely with the communities to define what they see as their capital assets. Some communities are still working on water treatment plants. Some communities want recreation centres. Some communities want arenas. Some communities already want the fire department. So it would be inappropriate for me to go to every community in the Northwest Territories and say, "You need to put all your capital asset planning on hold because I'm telling you as the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs that you're going to put in a fire department. That is your number one priority."

We work closely with them. We provide training to them. We provide assessments. The office of the fire marshal goes in to work with them to try to make them understand their safety, their needs, and then once they have done that and defined their needs, we work closely with them to support them in making sure that their community has the needs to ensure if a fire happens that they can be dealt with at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The other thing I want to say, though, is that, if it comes to a territorial, if it gets out of hand, we watch closely. If a house is on fire, that might be something that I don't get told of right away, but if it's in danger of spreading, I am told right away, and then the territorial government has an obligation and we will go in there and make sure -- not only us. I mean, we work with other jurisdictions. We work with Canada to make sure that fires are addressed within the Northwest Territories.

MS. GREEN: I'm working from memory here about the Office of the Auditor General report that was produced last year. It looked at things like water plant operators and training. It looked at waste disposal, and it looked at fire departments. What it found is that the fire departments are very ad hoc, that there is a need to standardize the operation of fire departments across the NWT. I have not yet heard the Minister talk about whether she is willing to undertake that work.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: All of the recommendations within the Auditor General's report are being implemented. We have said that many times through standing committee, in the House, whenever the questions have come up. We are committed to addressing all of the recommendations that were identified in that. We were actually working with the community of Norman Wells, prior to the Auditor General's report, on assessing their fire needs. Our Office of the Fire Marshal is working diligently at this time, going into the communities to assess their needs, to reassess their needs, to define what is needed, to support them in doing that. Once that is done, we will bring that information to the communities. Our job is to support the communities. We will put that information in front of the community municipal governments or designated authorities and help them to define what they need. Some communities do not have the infrastructure needed or the ability to have a full fire department, but we look at how we can support them in address their needs in case of fire. We do not let our communities go without support. I really want to emphasize that Municipal and Community Affairs, the department, the staff, are totally committed to supporting communities, and we do everything in our power to provide that support. I appreciate that department.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's good news that the fire marshal is travelling the communities of the NWT to assess their needs. Could the Minister tell us when his report will be ready and whether the needs will be funded in the next business plan? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Office of the Fire Marshal is not doing a general report and saying, "This is what we need everywhere." He is working closely with the communities to actually bring it forward. When that is done, when he does his assessment, we, the regional staff for Municipal and Community Affairs, work with the community governments to bring that information forward on a community-by-community basis.

Safety is a priority over all other things, so we bring that forward to the community, and we work with the community to define what their needs are and how we can support them. Again, we provide training; we provide first responder training; through our school of the community government, we provide training. We have other assets in a lot of the communities, such as people that have trained. Our forest firefighters, they are spread out throughout the Northwest Territories, those members, and I do give credit to them. They have an honourable job. Anyplace where there are airports, we have people who are trained in

providing that service. So it's not like our communities are left with nothing, and, if the community has nothing, we will fly in, we will help that community. Safety is number one, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 237-18(3):
LANDS ASSESSMENT INFORMATION IN
HAMLETS

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that I get to come back and ask some questions of the Minister of Lands. He talked about tax-based, and, yes, the Village of Fort Simpson is a tax-based community. However, the community of Fort Liard is a hamlet, and then the other four are designated authorities, so how is this information made available, since he does not want to share it with us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have mentioned previously, the appraisals or assessments are not done by my department. I know, in the tax-based communities, you can generally go to the town office to look at the assessments of the individual properties. I am not certain how MACA deals with informing the residents or the property owners as to what the assessments are.

MR. THOMPSON: I appreciate the Minister for providing that information. I understand the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs does the assessment, but the assessment is being used by Lands to come up with a value of how they are going to come up with lease payments, so I am asking the Minister again: how is this information shared, the information that the Lands department uses, to get that out to the residents?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The Member is quite correct that, on the value of the lands, the lease payments are based. I believe with respect to municipals, which would be under the purview of the Minister of MACA, that, when assessments are set out for tax purposes, people are obviously informed of the assessment. As I mentioned earlier, I believe, I am not certain, but I think there is likely a breakdown in the assessments, in most communities, between land and buildings. I am not 100 per cent sure of that, but I believe that is the case, from memory. However, at least in the tax-based communities, then, once you have received that assessment, you do have the option of challenging it, so there is a safeguard against unfair or unreasonable assessments.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that information about tax-based communities. I am not talking about tax-based communities. I totally understand that process. The process is: as a taxpayer, you get an assessment; it has land and facilities on there; you have the right to then go to municipal government to appeal that decision. I am talking about designated authorities and the hamlets that do not have this process as the tax-based. So they have these assessments done. Then Land uses this assessment to come up with a lease payment, so can the Minister provide us this information and how it is done so that we can help the residents in these communities?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Again, I am not certain as to the manner in which MACA comes to these assessments or appraisals. That information probably could be obtained or possibly could be obtained from the Minister of MACA. I am not certain how the appraisers come to their figures, but I do know that we rely on those figures when rents are assessed.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I am not asking how the Department of Lands is getting the information. I understand that. The Minister has been very clear in the process. The Minister of MACA is very clear in the process. What I am asking is: how does his department use this information and how they share this information with the residents?

Because we have gone from 10 per cent to 5 per cent, but I am hearing from the Minister of MACA that the assessment is land and improvements, and then the Minister says Lands is using the assessment on just lands. So we want to know and my residents want to know how is this information shared with the residents? All they get is a slip right now saying your lease payment is X amount of dollars, so can the Minister make a commitment to explain the process to me so I can share this information with the residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Certainly, I would always be pleased to speak with the Member opposite. I do realize this is a complex issue, and we'll attempt to meet with him at his convenience. We will meet with him at convenience, and we will attempt to explain the process. I am also told in response to perhaps an earlier question that: for general taxation areas such as Fort Liard, a copy of the assessment roll is available at the community office as well as the regional MACA office. So it's somewhat similar to the other communities that are tax-based. It's rather similar to the other tax-based

communities. Certainly, I would be prepared to meet with the Member. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 238-18(3):
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATION ON
COMMUNITY FIRE DEPARTMENT RISK
ASSESSMENTS

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Auditor General in paragraph 63 of its report said that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs should take immediate action to reassess whether communities with fire departments meet the requirements under the Safety Act. Can the Minister report on progress under this recommendation? Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this immediate time, since the Auditor General report was submitted, our Office of the Fire Marshal has been going into communities, working with each community, with their fire departments, to assess their fire departments and their needs to address fires at this time, and will continue right through until every community is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate that response. Can the Minister tell us in how many communities this assessment tool has been completed and whether that list includes Norman Wells?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: If I had notice that that question would come up today, I would have that figure on how many are done. However, I did not get notice that that question would come up. We have 33 communities. I have a lot of work that we are doing. Right off of the top of my head, I cannot tell you how many are actually done.

What I can tell you, though, is that we have gone into Norman Wells itself. We have worked with them. I want to clarify one thing, as well. The media has stated that we had shut down the fire department, that the community had shut down their fire department there or suspended them. That is not true, actually. It is not true. The fire department has not been suspended in Norman Wells. It is still functioning. We are working with them. We have identified in Norman Wells that they need additional training with their assessment. We are working on providing that support, that training that is needed for their fire department.

MS. GREEN: One of the actions committed to in the response to the Office of the Auditor General's report was to develop a web-based fire training resource centre. Has that action been completed?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Again, I don't know exactly if that has been completed. We are working on developing web-based training for a lot of our courses within the School of Community Government. We have 80 some courses in total.

I do know, however, that we provide face-to-face training. We provide tabletop exercises. We do have web-based training for some of the courses, and I am not exactly sure if that is one of them, but if it is one in the Auditor General's report, and if it is not done already, I can assure you that it will be. At this time, I do know that we do face-to-face training, and we also do tabletop exercises on a regular basis.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the commitments that the department made in its response to the Office of the Auditor General was to update the Fire Protection Act. Could the Minister tell us about the progress on updating that act? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: At this moment, we are working on updating the Fire Protection Act. We have identified five acts within this time that we will be working on: the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the 911 Act, the Western Canada Lottery Act, the Fire Emergency Act, the Emergency Protection Act. It is one that we are actually working on at this moment.

Again, I didn't know that this question was going to come up. I do not know right now where we stand exactly with that, but I do know that we are working on it at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to the Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 124-18(3):
AURORA COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 125-18(3):
TLICHO COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

TABLED DOCUMENT 126-18(3):
BEAUFORT DELTA DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR (ENDING JUNE 30, 2018)

TABLED DOCUMENT 127-18(3):
SOUTH SLAVE DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 (SCHOOL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018)

TABLED DOCUMENT 128-18(3):
SAHTU DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR (ENDING JUNE 30, 2018)

TABLED DOCUMENT 129-18(3):
DEHCHO DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

TABLED DOCUMENT 130-18(3):
YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 1 OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

TABLED DOCUMENT 131-18(3):
YELLOWKNIFE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR (ENDING JUNE 30, 2018)

TABLED DOCUMENT 132-18(3):
NDILO DISTRICT EDUCATION AUTHORITY OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR (ENDING JUNE 30, 2018)

TABLED DOCUMENT 133-18(3):
DETAH DISTRICT EDUCATION AUTHORITY OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR (ENDING JUNE 30, 2018)

TABLED DOCUMENT 134-18(3):
COMMISSION SCOLAIRE FRANCOPHONE, TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST OPERATING PLAN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR (ENDING JUNE 30, 2018)

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following eleven documents entitled "Aurora College Annual Report 2016-2017"; "Tlicho Community Services Agency Operating Plan for 2017-2018 School Year Ending June 30, 2018"; "Beaufort Delta District Education Council Operating Plan for 2017-2018 School Year (ending June 30, 2018)"; "South Slave Divisional Education Council Operating Plan for 2017-2018 (School Year ending June 30, 2018)"; "Sahtu Divisional Education Council Operating Plan for

2017-2018 School Year (ending June 30, 2018)"; "Dehcho Divisional Education Council Operating Plan for 2017-2018 School Year Ending June 30, 2018"; "Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Operating Plan for 2017-2018 School Year Ending June 30, 2018"; "Yellowknife Catholic Schools Operating Plan for 2017-2018 School Year (ending June 30, 2018)"; "Ndilo District Education Authority Operating Plan for 2017-2018 School Year (ending June 30, 2018)"; "Detah District Education Authority Operating Plan for 2017-2018 School Year (ending June 30, 2018)"; and "Commission scolaire francophone, Territoires du Nord-Ouest Operating Plan for 2017-2018 School Year (ending June 30, 2018)." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 4-18(3), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Adult Residential Addictions Treatment Facilities Tour 2017; Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns; Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process; and Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019, 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 call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee would like to consider Committee Report 4-18(3), Report on Adult Residential Addictions Treatment Facilities Tour 2017. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will consider the report after a brief recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I will now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Committee Report 4-18(3), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Adult Residential Addictions Treatment Facilities Tour 2017. I will turn to the chair of the

Standing Committee on Social Development for any opening comments. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we have read in the report in Committee of the Whole. A number of Members have made Members' statements about the tour. I think it is pretty straightforward. We have four motions we wish to read in. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I will open the floor to general comments. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to thank the committee for their report and the hard work they put into it. I was, I think, honoured and privileged to join them in their tour of the treatment facilities. I really appreciated that opportunity.

Overall, I just want to be clear that we are very supportive of the recommendations provided by committee. The department is in favour of them and is planning to include three of the four recommendations in the addictions recovery action plan. We are not planning to include the section on the 120-day report, but all the other three recommendations, we are planning to incorporate. I would just really like to thank the committee for their hard work. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just was wondering if a Member of the committee could just share. I know what is in the report. It is a very good report. I am glad the committee undertook this. Mental health and the southern treatment model that we are using can be controversial among some of my constituents, at least, who still believe very strongly on a personal level that a local treatment option is a better option. Did the tour change their opinions on that perspective, that local treatment options are better? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. First, I will turn to the chair. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to the question, what we did was we had an opportunity to visit the four facilities that have contracts with the Government of the Northwest Territories. We believe that, yes, a treatment centre in the Northwest Territories at some time in the future would be a good opportunity.

The biggest challenges that we found were, one, the ability to provide the selection that the government has with the four treatment centres out there. It gives us some variety. It gives us some options that seem to be well versed for our

residents. The other thing is that we lack capacity presently, not just facility-wise but capacity-wise. Thanks to the Minister and the department for coming with us so we actually got the opportunity to hear facilities present to us and the patients who were attending it. The people who were trying to work on their treatment, they presented stuff to us. It was very informative.

We don't have the capacity right now in the Northwest Territories. We miss the capacity right now to fulfill our requirements for doctors and specialists. Right now, we are saying that this is the best option available for our residents, to attend these four treatment centres. It doesn't eliminate people from going to other facilities, but that there is a cost that people or their insurance company or the company would have to bear. Right now, the four facilities meet the needs of the residents of the Northwest Territories on the most part. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green would also like to comment. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will just build on the point that the chair of the standing committee made. Other immediate advantages to southern treatment include privacy where people are not among a group of people who they may live in the same community as or be related to, closely or not. They are able to have a certain amount of anonymity in these facilities. That seems to be something that they desire.

Secondly, the facilities have large capacities, so it is possible to get a bed for treatment almost immediately. There is no need to go on a waiting list and to wait months for a treatment option. The treatment is available in very short order.

Another point is that there are gender-specific choices in the options the GNWT has contracted. Women can seek treatment among women only. Men can seek treatment among men only. Then there are the co-ed facilities. That is important to some people, that their trauma is related to the opposite sex and they are happy to have the healing opportunity where they are in a gender-specific facility.

Fourthly, the different facilities have professional staff. They have linkages to other professionals in those larger communities, such as Edmonton, Calgary, and Nanaimo. That means that, if the person has a medical condition that is complicating their addiction or their mental health, that there is a resource available right in the community where the treatment facility is based, so there's no need for them to be flown out on medical travel, and of course, the waiting times would be less.

I also want to mention that the programs have follow-up options for people. They are able to continue their treatment in a transitional setting, and some of the people who we met found that very useful, that they really wanted to cement their sobriety before returning to their homes.

Also, there was the option for family counselling. Often people have family members who are addicts or have issues of their own, not necessarily with addictions but with the trauma that the addiction of their family member has caused, and they have trouble with boundaries, with appropriate communication, and so on. These treatment facilities all have some level of interaction with family members, who can both heal for themselves and support their family member in healing.

It's my firm belief that offering a suite of options to the residents of the Northwest Territories is going to, first of all, meet their needs and give them maximum choice in how they want those choices met to obtain and retain their sobriety. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Another Member of the committee would like to speak. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this tour really opened my eyes as a Regular Member who represents small communities. I know the last two years I have been supportive of having a treatment facility in the Northwest Territories, but after this tour, I do support sending our people south because of the specialists who are available on-hand and, you know, especially the treatment that is needed. In this day and age we are having more people that are being hooked on powerful drugs like crack cocaine. We just don't have the capacity here in the Northwest Territories to deal with that. You know, it's very important that those people who have identified the need to get treatment have the best care available. After going on this trip, I have seen firsthand that help is there and needed, if needed.

Also, Poundmaker's, I didn't even know this, that they have a mobile treatment facility that comes to Fort Smith here in the Northwest Territories. You know, it gives people a chance to go there and, if they feel comfortable enough, they make arrangements to go to Poundmaker's. You know, that facility is more than willing to come to other communities, as well. At the moment, we are actually working on that in some of the communities, to try to set that up. So, yes, this trip was much needed.

Before, when we had questions about these facilities, we didn't know what to explain to our constituents because we didn't know firsthand what is actually being treated at these facilities. Seeing

things firsthand is the way to go, Mr. Chair. You know, now when my constituents come to me asking why we don't have facilities here in the Northwest Territories, it's very clear that we don't have the capacity. We do have a long way to go to build that capacity, but having those specialists come here in the Northwest Territories, we do have to have more to offer for those specialists to come here. Right now, it seems Yellowknife, maybe Hay River, has the capacity to draw those specialists in, but you know, for them to come to, say, Inuvik, it's very challenging because we just don't have the facilities that would draw in those specialists. That's one thing we have learned. I would just like to share that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Testart, I hope that answered your answer, as it used up the bulk of your time. The Minister would also like to comment. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know that I'm not committee, and once again I really appreciate the work they did. It was a pleasure and honour to travel with them to these facilities to see firsthand some of the things that are going on, and I really appreciate the comments I heard.

To the Member from Kam Lake's comment, the Member talked about local options and the lack of a treatment facility. We may get to the point sometime in the Northwest Territories where there is a treatment facility. We don't know where that will be necessarily, but what we heard clearly from people during the Ministers' Forum on Mental Health and Addictions is that people wanted options. People wanted more than just one program or one possibility for the treatment of mental health and addictions. They wanted on-the-land programming. They wanted better programs. They wanted programs that met a variety of their needs. The facilities that we have had in the past have been basically one program. We didn't have the uptake necessary to support them and continue to support them and provide high-quality services to our residents.

We have local options, Mr. Chair. In Yellowknife, we have community counsellors. We have mental health and addictions counsellors. We have NGOs that are doing incredible work. We have the ability to do detox at Stanton, medical detox at Stanton. We have the ability to do medical detox in Inuvik. We can do social detox in our communities with assistance from community mental health and addictions workers.

We are trying to bring more options. We have supported on-the-land programming, which we heard during the Mental Health and Addictions

Forum was the thing that people wanted the most in the Northwest Territories, particularly people outside Yellowknife. We fund on-the-land programming. We actually have worked with other partners to create an on-the-land collaborative that creates even more options for people who are seeking a healing journey.

We have also put in a program called Matrix. It's a really interesting program. It's an out-patient program that can be done at a community level, so people can receive the supports they need, but they will stay in their homes in the evenings, and those types of things.

Fort Smith, the Salt River First Nation did an amazing job of piloting a mobile treatment option. We have been working with them to see if we can encourage other Indigenous partners to pursue the same type of program to create more options. At the end of the day, when it comes to treatment facilities, on average we have about 18 people in the Northwest Territories who are identifying as ready to go to treatment facilities, 18 people on average. That has gone up, and I think it's good that it's gone up. It means that more people are ready and more people are getting the support they need to go to facilities. When we move to the program we have in place now, we were averaging about 12, so I think it's great that the numbers are going up. It means that people are ready. We have put in an expedited referral process to get people into these treatment facilities as quickly as possible, because sometimes now is the right time.

I hear people when they talk about a treatment facility. We need a treatment facility. Bricks and mortar aren't going to solve the problem. High-quality programs that meet the needs of our residents and provide options are going to help us solve the problem, but it's going to take more than that. It's going to take us addressing poverty. It's going to take us addressing, you know, creating opportunities, meaningful work for people to do. It's about getting housing in place to make sure people have appropriate housing. Addictions is going to take work on all of our fronts, every one of our fronts, and a treatment facility of bricks and mortar isn't going to give us the solutions by itself.

I have heard people say to me, "If you build it, they will come." If past predicts future, we know that isn't true when it comes to a treatment facility. We have done four treatment facilities, and the enrolment and the number of people going to them was low. We are providing more support to people today than we did yesterday. Now, I say that with a qualifier. Absolutely we need to do more. We have the recommendations from committee. We are moving forward with an addictions recovery action plan to help us build upon the things we are learning and also acknowledge and recognize that

there is new science there and there are new concepts, new theories, new ideas. There is harm reduction. There are things like managed alcohol. There are all sorts of things that we could do better on.

In Yellowknife, we have also put in a sobering centre. This is a huge opportunity to help get people who need support and the information they need and help build them up, at least in the first step so that they are ready to pursue other treatment options.

I hear the Member. I hear the people. We never say never, but right now, our best choice is to do what the Ministers' Forum on Addiction and the people of the Northwest Territories have told us to do, which is to create the best options and the best programming possible. More options don't limit us to one model, and that is what we're trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. I will give the Member for Kam Lake an opportunity to speak again if he wishes. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that the format of our proceedings might not accommodate the same kind of back and forth we have in other reviews, but I do appreciate all of the Members who spoke to this, the time that they have put in, and of course, the Minister's comments as well.

I am certainly not saying that we need, with definite certainty, a brick and mortar facility today, but there are a lot of people who feel that way, and I think the work that the standing committee has done has given new information to consider about the effectiveness of our addictions strategy.

Aftercare continues to be a prime concern. A lot of people who I talk to, my constituents who are concerned -- one of them has started a petition, in actual fact -- a lot of what their concerns are relate to aftercare.

I note that the committee has two recommendations here directly applicable to aftercare, but what does the current model of aftercare look like in the Northwest Territories, for one, and how can we improve upon it?

Granted, I am happy if committee wants to speak to the recommendations, but if we can just have that conversation here so that people understand that that is part of the work that committee has undertaken. That will be my final question, but I think it is an important question that needs to be raised, and I would appreciate hearing from committee members on their thoughts on aftercare and how we can make it better. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Do any committee members wish to comment? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Aftercare was one of the big things that we were looking at. It was one of the challenges that we saw there. Basically, though, what we found is that aftercare has to be individualized. It has to be respectful to that individual. Each facility, like Ms. Green talked about, had the opportunity to have aftercare available from each facility, that there were some 30 days, 60 days, 90 days of aftercare. There was the opportunity for people to come back to the facility for further treatment there. There was the opportunity to make phone calls. There is that option available.

The department has some good aftercare processes with their staff, and I don't want to speak on that, because we didn't look into that aftercare so much. When we talked to the Minister, he did provide some good, clear direction, good ideas, and good information that we needed to hear, and I think the Minister could probably elaborate further on that.

Again, we thought it was an issue, and we needed to work on it. We, as the government, need to make it better. We need to make it individualized, but we need to also train family and get family prepared. When I say "family," we are talking extended family and friends, when the person comes back. If we put them in the same environment, then we are going to see failure again.

When we talked to the people, that was one of the things there. One of the things with aftercare, they have actually stayed back. They stayed down in the city where this program is being done, because they realized the aftercare was not available for them presently in the Northwest Territories in their community.

We talk about peer support groups and that opportunity to help them. The aftercare is individualized, the department has some stuff, and I would rather have the Minister speak on that, as well, on what they are doing.

I guess the biggest challenge that we found was the communication of the programs that are being offered, and we are trying to, you know, work with the department on coming up with a plan. I will turn it over to any of my colleagues or the Minister who wishes to talk on this further. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green, you wish to comment? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, all four of the treatment centres that we visited operated on the 12-step model, and as you may

know, peer support is critical to the success of the 12-step program.

What I have heard since I came back is that, in even the regional centres, let alone the small communities, people are reluctant to create AA groups, which would be the natural follow-up, because of privacy concerns, which I stated earlier. There really isn't a level of anonymity in a place that has 1,000 people, and not everyone is comfortable sharing the details of their addiction and recovery in that format.

That means that aftercare, as my colleague from Nahendeh said, really needs to take place on an individual basis. How this would work within privacy concerns, I am not sure, but it may be possible to link people who have been in recovery to one another so that they can provide peer support one-on-one. That was one thought I had.

Otherwise, as my colleague said, really, it is individual. The centres offer online support. They offer telephone support. If you are in the place where the treatment facility is located, you can drop in and talk to them. Other than that, the peer support piece, it is not really clear that it would be easy to get that going. It is not really a matter of money and resources. It is a matter of privacy, which is a more difficult issue to address.

Having said that, of course, that is not the only way to support people in their sobriety, and I will leave the Minister to fill in the blanks. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Testart, would you care for the Minister to respond as well? It is your 10 minutes.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am content if the Minister would like to. I am sure that people would appreciate hearing about the supports we currently have towards aftercare. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister Abernethy, three minutes.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was hoping to have a response to each of the recommendations as we are going through the motion, so I won't go into too much detail here, other than to sort of articulate as best I can what the process is today, not necessarily where we need to go.

If an individual in the Northwest Territories is seeking support through a facility-based treatment centre, we go through a referral process and expedite it. We get the person in there. Before they even go down, they are required to have a follow-up appointment booked in their community or wherever their referral came from. If the person is

from X community, they have to have an appointment booked in their community as part of their aftercare.

Then, the person goes down, they go through their treatment process, they get the tools they need, and then their facilitator, their lead person, their clinical advisor, if you will, down there will then work with them on the development of a self-directed aftercare plan. That involves getting in touch with the local provider, following up on those appointments, and getting in contact with local resources that exist and other programs that might be appropriate.

In principle, on paper that sounds good, but what we know is it's not necessarily happening. People aren't following up when they come back to the communities. Some of these aftercare programs, as the Member for Yellowknife Centre described, aren't necessarily working because of the size of some of these communities and the size of some of these groups. Clearly, without question, we need to do better on aftercare.

It's not just about some of these counselling things. When we were on the trip, the Member for Yellowknife Centre said something that stuck with me, and I think she nailed it right on the head: we can't be releasing people to poverty or to homelessness, and sometimes that is the case. Some people who are in treatment have come from a couch-surfing lifestyle, and they have nowhere to go to when they return. There isn't really a defined plan on how to help those people come back to the communities and avoid going into that homelessness situation, the poverty situation, again. We have work to do.

I would like to speak to those when we are going through the recommendations, but I think we are on the right track. I think we are working together to find solutions. We have aftercare, but it needs to be strengthened, without question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Testart. Mr. O'Reilly, opening comments, general comments on the report? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I will keep this very brief. I just want to thank the members of the standing committee for their work. I learned a lot. This is not an area that I knew very much about. I think that I am better informed now.

I also want to thank the Minister, who is not listening to me, but I do want to sincerely thank him for engaging in this discussion and debate. It's kind of an awkward place to do it, in Committee of the Whole, but I do very much appreciate him engaging

in the debate and discussion. It does not happen often enough in this House, so I want to thank him.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. For those watching at home, I will let you know how we deal with these committee reports. There are recommendations contained throughout the report. Those are generally moved by members of the committee as motions. I believe we will be beginning that process now, and I just want to remind committee that we have canvassed essentially everything in the recommendations, and so, while committee members may speak to each one, just be mindful of the fact that those reading Hansard don't want to have to read the same thing over and over and over again. So, if you've said something once, you don't necessarily have to repeat it. Mr. Thompson.

Committee Motions

COMMITTEE MOTION 30-18(3):
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(3): STANDING
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPORT ON ADULT RESIDENTIAL ADDICTIONS
TREATMENT FACILITIES TOUR 2017 -
ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
ON ADDICTIONS TREATMENT,
CARRIED

MR. THOMPSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommend that the Department of Health and Social Services enhance its public communications on addictions treatment. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to have it as a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is being distributed. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I will try not to repeat myself from previous comments. The department is taking steps to develop an overarching communications plan for mental health and addictions in the Northwest Territories with an aim to increase awareness and reduce stigma, improve access to services across the continuum of care, and spread messages of hope and recovery. As part of this initiative, individuals who identify as having lived experiences will be included in the development of messaging, promotional materials, and the overall strategy. I think this is consistent with what the committee is asking. We are supportive of the recommendation. Given that it is a recommendation of government, we will be abstaining, but I have already made a commitment to move on these. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. To the motion. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Kay): The Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MS. KAY): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Yellowknife South, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The results of the recorded vote are: six in favour, zero opposed, seven abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Thompson.

COMMITTEE MOTION 31-183:
COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(3): STANDING
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPORT ON ADULT RESIDENTIAL ADDICTIONS
TREATMENT FACILITIES TOUR 2017 -
ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED
AFTERCARE SERVICES,
CARRIED

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that the Assembly recommend that the Department of Health and Social Services enhance community-based aftercare services by encouraging the development of a peer support network, scheduling regular access to counselling and addictions facilities through existing health centre resources, i.e. Telehealth, and engaging with southern facilities to train territorial healthcare providers in the delivery of family support programs. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I again request a recorded vote.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. There is a motion on the floor. The motion has been distributed. To the motion. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Providing aftercare and appropriate follow-up is an important step in the recovery process. There are, as I have already described, a number of options for aftercare support for individuals returning from addictions treatment. I won't list them again, for the

sake of time. While there are some options in place, we need to ensure that our current range of aftercare and support options are keeping pace with the needs of people and the best and emerging practices.

The department is currently examining best practice research, jurisdictional and international scans, and local feedback to identify potential actions to support and enhance aftercare services in the Northwest Territories, and we certainly got a lot of good ideas from the committee as we were travelling. This work will inform the development of the addictions recovery action plan and will identify ways in which we can enhance existing services and introduce new programs and new initiatives.

The department has been engaging with southern facility-based addictions treatment centres to gather more information on aftercare programming available through their facilities as well as opportunities for collaboration in program development and staff training. The department will be updating the Community Counselling Program standards and procedures manual to include aftercare standards and guidelines. These standards and guidelines will reflect a recovery-oriented and best-practices approach to care. Training for managerial and front-line staff will be provided as part of the implementation plan in these standards and guidelines. Our non-government partners will also be included in these training opportunities.

We feel that this builds upon the recommendation that was made, but, as it is a recommendation to government, Cabinet will be abstaining. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Question has been called. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MS. KAY): The Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MS. KAY): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for

Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Yellowknife South, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The results of the recorded vote are: six in favour, zero opposed, seven abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 32-18(3): COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(3): STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT ON ADULT RESIDENTIAL ADDICTIONS TREATMENT FACILITIES TOUR 2017 - PILOT PROGRAM FOR POST-TREATMENT HOUSING, CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommend that the Department of Health and Social Services partner with its fellow social envelope departments, community governments, and community organizations to develop a pilot program centred on ensuring that Northerners completing residential treatment are not discharged into homelessness but instead are connected with housing opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, when we went on our tour, we had the opportunity to speak directly with people in the treatment centres, and housing was the number one topic on their mind after sobriety. Many of them were very concerned about where they were going to live when they came out of the treatment facility and, particularly, that they not return to their living situation that they had been in prior to treatment because they found that it was not constructive. So there is a real desire on the part of people who have gone through treatment to obtain housing on their release.

The other point I want to make is that this just makes financial sense. The government is paying between \$150 and \$450 per person per day for these treatment facilities, and so to invest all of that money into helping people obtain their sobriety and then put them back into a situation which has been proven to be destructive for them just makes no sense. So, for me, it's really important that we look at a way to house people coming out of treatment programs so that they have a fair chance to retain their sobriety. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I beg your pardon. I would like to request a recorded vote.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Of course. Thank you Ms. Green. To the motion. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I really appreciate the Member's comments. It's clearly recognized that housing is a barrier for many residents in the Northwest Territories and is reflected in the need to holistically address the social determinants of health as well as the historic cultural and systemic contributions to these issues in our territory. Collaboration and strong partnerships where all social envelope departments as well as external partners are at the table will be required to successfully take on this challenge. It is important to recognize that each situation is unique and that self-determination of the individuals receiving services is of utmost importance and should be central to any actions that we are taking or will be undertaking in this area. The root causes of homelessness and the complexities in maintaining different forms of housing must be taken into consideration in the planning and implementation of any actions.

Under this recommendation, we are prepared to do that work. One of the things we know we need to do is actually try to get a sense of the magnitude, the number of individuals that this situation may face. We did hear that many of them are coming home to environments that, you know, may feel are safe, but there were clearly some who said they had nowhere to go. We need to be able to work with those individuals. We don't know exactly what that looks like yet, but we are committed to doing that work and we will be working with committee.

As this is a recommendation to the government, Cabinet will be abstaining. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Kay):The Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Kay): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Yellowknife South, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The results of the recorded vote: six in favour, zero opposed, seven abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Blake.

COMMITTEE MOTION 33-18(3): COMMITTEE REPORT 4-18(3): STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT ON ADULT RESIDENTIAL ADDICTIONS TREATMENT FACILITIES TOUR 2017 - COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE WITHIN 120 DAYS, CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommend that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Blake. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it's really that we have a comprehensive response to this report. Not only that, but adoption of these motions, you know, as my colleagues mention, it is people who take that step to go to treatment or take a life-changing step in their life. We need to ensure that they're successful, and the only way to ensure that is to adopt these motions and have them in place, because those are the challenges we are facing, whether it's shortage of housing. That's something that's come to myself here in the last couple of weeks with constituency issues, but I really hope that this government makes the necessary changes. I would like to request a recorded vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Blake. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Kay): The Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Kay): The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave, the Member for Yellowknife South, the Member for Inuvik Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): The results of the recorded vote: six in favour, zero opposed, seven abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee, do you agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 4-18(3), Report on Adult Residential Addictions Treatment Facilities Tour 2017?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. This concludes our consideration of report 4-18(3). Committee, I just want to take a moment to thank those people who have been working with us for this past week behind the scenes. Our interpreters, our Tlicho interpreter, Mary Rose Sundberg; North Slave interpreter, Sarah Cleary; and our Inuktitut interpreter, Suzie Short. The point of what we do here is getting this information out. That's why we sit in this House. That's why we're on TV. That's why we're on the radio, and we couldn't do it without the help of these interpreters. Thank you very much to all our interpreters for all your hard work.

I also want to thank all the Pages who have been with us this week. We greatly appreciate your hard work. We hope you have had a good time. We hope it was exciting and thrilling, just like it was for us. Thank you to all the Pages.

What is the wish of committee? Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the chairman of the Committee of the Whole leave the chair to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor to report

progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 4-18(3), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Adult Residential Addictions Treatment Facilities Tour 2017, and would like to report progress, and that consideration of report for Committee Report 4-18(3) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, the orders of the day for Monday, March 12, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner' Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7, Chartered Professional Accountants Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns
 - Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process
 - Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019
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 Monday, March 12, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

