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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, May 29, 2018****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

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

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 77-18(3):
2030 ENERGY STRATEGY

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories made a mandate commitment to implement a new NWT Energy Strategy that would include renewable and alternative energy solutions and actions this government and its partners will undertake to meet targets for greenhouse gas reductions.

Earlier this month, the GNWT publicly released its 2030 Energy Strategy, along with the Climate Change Strategic Framework and the NWT Petroleum Resources Strategy. Together, these documents define our long-term vision and approach to energy and climate change and will enable the NWT to transition to a strong, healthy economy that is less dependent on fossil fuels.

The 2030 Energy Strategy sets the course for a more secure, affordable, and sustainable energy system, and contributes to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the territory and its residents.

Mr. Speaker, this strategy identifies six key strategic objectives designed to address the cost of living, energy reliability, and climate change. These objectives provide a firm basis with which to engage and empower communities to participate in finding energy solutions. The strategy sets achievable sectorial targets, including a 25 per cent reduction in diesel use in our remote communities. Other targets include increasing the share of renewable energy used for space heating to 40 per cent, achieving a 15 per cent reduction in energy use for buildings, and reducing greenhouse gas

emissions in the transportation sector by 10 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, to achieve the objectives outlined in the Strategy, the Government of the Northwest Territories through the Department of Infrastructure has developed a rolling Three-Year Energy Action Plan that identifies specific actions and initiatives that this government will undertake. The action plan identifies approximately \$200 million to be spent by the Government of the Northwest Territories and its partners over the next three years. Investments will be made toward a variety of initiatives, including partnering with community and Indigenous governments in local renewable energy projects; investing in a major wind turbine project in Inuvik; enhancing Arctic Energy Alliance programs; and supporting greenhouse gas emission reductions from industrial emitters through a new grant program.

To achieve success in these initiatives we must establish effective partnerships with the federal government, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Arctic Energy Alliance, and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, as well as with communities, businesses, and industry.

Mr. Speaker, while we undertake these short-term initiatives, the 2030 Energy Strategy also serves as a guide to develop a lower carbon economy over the long term. With these actions, the Northwest Territories will continue to do our part to help Canada meet its international commitments.

To achieve transformative reductions in our emissions, we will need substantial projects like the Taltson Hydro Expansion. This project would increase power generation and connect our Snare and Taltson hydro systems, providing electricity consumers to the north and south of Great Slave Lake with plentiful clean and renewable energy. Transmission lines could ultimately be extended southward to join the continental electrical grid and northward to link to the vast resources of the Slave Geological Province. Hydropower and transmission line development will enhance energy security for present consumers, build capacity to serve future consumers, provide investment opportunities for Indigenous partners, and support local economic development and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, it is abundantly clear that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, but we must balance this requirement with sustainable resource development and clean economic growth. The 2030 Energy Strategy is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' overarching approach to achieve this balance. By implementing the 2030 Energy Strategy in concert with the Climate Change Strategic Framework and the Northwest Territories Petroleum Resources Strategy, we will support innovative solutions to provide renewable energy to communities and industry and ensure the social, economic, and environmental well-being of NWT residents now and into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 78-18(3):
TUKTOYAKTUK SHORELINE RELOCATION
PROJECT

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard many times in this House, the impacts of climate change in the Northwest Territories are real, and they are having a profound effect on Northwest Territories communities. The community of Tuktoyaktuk is at the centre of these changes. Coastal erosion has impacted the community for decades. However, with the increased frequency and intensity of storms and rising sea levels caused by climate change, the impacts on the community's coastline have reached the point where adaptation measures are now required.

The Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk has been proactive. Over the past two years, the community government has undertaken a project to revise its community plan and zoning bylaw. The revised plan and bylaw support the community government's plan to relocate inland those homes at greatest risk. The community will also continue to search for techniques to slow erosion and protect the community's infrastructure and cultural sites which need to remain on the peninsula for the near and medium term.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Government of the Northwest Territories has received funding for the community of Tuktoyaktuk to begin adaptation efforts to address the erosion issues impacting the community. This is an example of our government working, through its ongoing engagement, with the Government of Canada to access funding for the Northwest Territories that will directly benefit residents. The Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Environment and Natural Resources worked in partnership with the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk to

access funding, through Indigenous Services Canada's Climate Change Preparedness in the North program. The total funding for the project will be \$800,000.

This funding will be used to relocate private residences from the western shore of the peninsula to residential parcels located further inland. This funding will support the relocation of those homes that are facing the most severe erosion issues, where the erosion has reached the home's foundation. This is a commendable first step to addressing climate change impacts in this community, and I would like to thank Indigenous Services Canada for their support for this project.

This project is also supported by the work the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk and Municipal and Community Affairs began late in 2016 on the development of a mitigation plan for the community. The mitigation plan is being developed with funding support through Public Safety Canada's National Disaster Mitigation Program. Once complete, the plan will outline the long-term adaptation measures for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Tuktoyaktuk is not the only community facing hazards related to climate change. The department has identified eight other flood-risk communities in the Northwest Territories. These communities include Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson, and Aklavik. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is actively working with these community governments to develop the plans and access the funding needed to address these issues. Creative solutions and inter-governmental collaboration, as we have seen with the project in Tuktoyaktuk, will enable us to meet those serious environmental challenges to the greatest extent possible. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BANNING SMOKING IN VEHICLES WITH MINORS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when you and I were youths, smoking was everywhere. There were no restrictions on where people could smoke. In fact, planes had ashtrays built right into the armrest. Remember that? You could smoke in workplaces, even government offices. You could smoke in bars, restaurants, and patios. You could smoke anywhere.

Now, all of that is gone and for good reason. Second-hand smoke was harmful to the health and well-being of our society. More recently, the WSCC has banned smoking in commercial vehicles. Many municipalities, including Yellowknife, have now banned smoking in public outdoor spaces. All this to protect people from proven, deadly effects of second-hand smoke.

When we know that something causes significant health risks, the government must take action to reduce those risks, especially when it comes to our most vulnerable citizens, our youth. That is why governments around the world, including most of Canada, have banned smoking in vehicles with minors in them. Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is still a thing. In all our efforts to protect citizens from second-hand smoke over the years, we have forgotten about the child who is strapped into the car seat while mom and dad puff away on their cigarette, driving their vehicle.

Mr. Speaker, we know that second-hand smoke is dangerous. It is an even greater threat in closed, confined spaces like a vehicle. Second-hand smoke can pose a very serious risk to children in those vehicles. Children who breathe second-hand smoke can develop cancer later in life, even if they never take up smoking.

Children absorb more pollutants than adults because they are smaller and their respiratory system is still developing. Second-hand smoke can also lead to asthma and other respiratory illness and make children more vulnerable to bronchial infections and allergies. Clearly, it is a detriment to a child's well-being during their developmental years.

Mr. Speaker, you and I could not imagine going back in time when all that smoke was in our face everywhere we went. Let's stop living in the past and bring our tobacco laws into the present and protect those who need it most, our children. I don't think. I know. It is time to ban smoking in vehicles with young children in them.

Later today I will be presenting a motion to that effect. I would be most grateful for my colleagues' support on this very important health issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
YELLOWKNIFE COMMON GROUND
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak to a new program that has recently been launched in the city of Yellowknife. This program is called Common Ground, and its purpose is to help the most vulnerable citizens find employment and lift themselves out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative is being led by one of my constituents, Michael Fatte of Lutselk'e, who is a founder and lead coordinator of Common Ground. This program is aimed to hire homeless and the marginalized people to pick up the litter in public areas around the City of Yellowknife, which uniquely positions itself as a single solution for two major issues we have in the territory, homelessness and littering.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly an innovative program that has been tried, tested, and successfully adopted within numerous municipalities across Canada. It really is a win-win scenario, and it helps provide a small income to homeless individuals and helps keep our streets and environment cleaner. It also provides an opportunity for public perception of our most impoverished citizens to be enhanced.

Mr. Speaker, it is programs like this which I believe our government should be investing and promoting on a territorial-wide scale. While this program is currently in a pilot stage in Yellowknife, I see great potential to expand the scope into other communities. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to work with the City of Yellowknife on securing a long-term funding for Common Ground, and to begin working with other communities on such programs in order to both maximize a number of honourable people employed, as well as grow a cleaner, litter-free environment in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the City of Yellowknife, the Yellowknife Women's Society, and Michael Fatte for their work on this program because their time, effort, and funding of this initiative has made it a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MANDATE OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN
COUNCIL

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the last sitting, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women indicated she's moving the NWT's Status of Women Council in a new direction, the scope of that new direction is becoming clearer over time.

To refresh the memory of my colleagues, the Status of Women Council is an arm's-length agency of the

territorial government, with its own board of directors. The board and staff are authorized to regulate their own affairs, including conducting research on matters that relate to the status of women, to participate in programs that improve the status of women, and, of course, to provide the Minister with assistance and advice.

It's important to note that the council staff is not part of the public service. Its independence is crucial. It is the publicly established and funded advocate, distinct from the service deliverers that are dependent upon government for funding.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women is jeopardizing the independence of the council. The Minister has not made public the evaluation she is using as a justification for removing the campaign schools from the council. The council is now fully staffed and in a position to resume offering the schools, but the Minister has directed the curriculum development and implementation be taken into the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs. She has not provided a solid reason for this change.

Perhaps most disturbing, the council has been directed to suspend its leadership of the Coalition Against Family Violence. Does anyone need to be reminded about the importance of advocating for women's safety, given our high rates of intimate partner violence? The council has hosted the Family Violence Coalition since its inception in 1999 because of its unique advocacy role. It is the primary advocate for to quote the act, "promoting a change in attitudes within the community in order that women enjoy equality of opportunity."

Mr. Speaker, women's equality begins with their safety. The coalition under the council's direction has been the driving force behind the development of the Men's Healing Program, Family Violence Awareness Week, and other anti-violence initiatives, but no longer. The coalition hasn't met in five months, and the council believes this is no longer their work.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is presiding over the wholesale dismantling of the Status of Women Council. If it can't set its own priorities, what is the meaning of its independence? The council is moving in directions that are at odds with the stated purpose of the council in the act. There has been no consultation. The Minister owes the women of the NWT an explanation. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SAMBAA K'E COMMUNITY GYM

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 1, 2018, I had the opportunity to visit the community of Sambaa K'e, and the topic of renovations to the school and a needed community gym was brought to my attention. I was advised that the community had a public meeting to discuss the design and outline of the school expansion with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Infrastructure. The band council raised the concern that the wastewater location would block the future expansion of the community gym. They were advised that the architects would come back with other options for discussions, but this did not happen. Now, the contractor is placing the wastewater in that location, which will impede any future gym expansion.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Sambaa K'e is the only community in the Nahendeh riding that does not have a full-sized gym. The facility of what's called a community gym is not even close to being a gym. From my personal experience, and in reality, it should be called a large meeting room. Marking on floors does not make it a gym. The facility is too small for children to play in. As you are aware, it is very important that children need to have physical activity as part of their learning process; as well, provide physical activity opportunities that help improve their health. Currently, there are 26 students from kindergarten to grade 9 at Charles Tetcho School.

Mr. Speaker, the community needs to have a gym that will be part of the community for its growth plan. The younger generation are very active in sports. Over the last two years, the students have been fundraising and going to soccer at regional and territorial events. However, it is very difficult for them to practise in this area because of the size.

Mr. Speaker, they've tried to be active. They offer daily after school programs six days out of the week. Unfortunately, due to the size, they are not able to offer quality programs to all students. As well, it is my understanding that older youth access the facility for physical activity. Some of these students get hurt because it's too small. Due to this factor, Charles Tetcho School has to take students outside for physical activity, but this limits the number of times they can have PE.

The community needs a community gym, as the new generations are active and want to make positive, healthy lifestyle choices. The community and I are looking for the department and the government to step up and help build a much-needed gym. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions later today for the Minister of Culture, Education and Employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GNWT ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. The project assessment policy requires "Any technical advice and evidence provided by two boards by their respective staff is in line with legislation, Cabinet direction, and Ministerial policies established under this policy." This policy reads like a way of muzzling our scientists and preventing presentation of evidence that may be critical of Cabinet direction.

My concerns were borne out by the review board in its March 29, 2018, report on the Tlicho all-season road. The board found that the so-called whole-of-government approach "has limited the ability of evidence and expertise from GNWT departments about potential impacts, concerns, and mitigations on issues within their respective mandates and jurisdictions. In addition, it is not apparent to the review board how these departments may have influenced the developer's position in the CA."

The board continued: "The old approach was preferable to the one taken by the GNWT in this EA in terms of transparency, robust project design, the provision of useful information to parties and the review board, and serving the public interest. In future, where it is the developer, this would be a preferable approach for the GNWT to take."

In an attempt to mitigate this damaging finding, the associate deputy minister of Lands wrote to the board on April the 10th to try to clarify the roles of various departments as a "matter of good governance and transparency." That letter went on to state: "The GNWT's implementing an internal firewall between the Departments of Infrastructure and Finance, and the staff of other departments who will assist in the decision making process." I guess someone forgot to tell the Department of Infrastructure.

The regional superintendent for Infrastructure wrote a letter directly to the Minister of Lands on April the 30th complaining that there would be no Tlicho all-season road if the proposed measures to protect boreal caribou are accepted. It's not clear why this letter was sent, as it tries to override the review board's work. That letter casts a long and dark shadow of interference with procedural fairness and legal uncertainty over any decision on the Tlicho all-season road. GNWT's role in future environmental assessments and protection of threatened boreal caribou. I continue to call for Cabinet to change the project assessment policy to reflect the role our government can and should play in resource

management decisions in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SAHTU REGIONAL OPERATIONS

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Sahtu regional independence is truly, and similar to many other nations, seeking their objectives for solidarity and, more importantly, self-reliance through a decision-making authority.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories delivers programs and services through 12 departments and 350 employees to residents of five Sahtu communities. Mr. Speaker, this will soon change, as full staffing is under way for the new Sahtu Regional Health Centre, with an additional 25 physicians now under recruitment.

Mr. Speaker, when considerations are given to regional Aboriginal self-governments, joint intergovernmental regimes, delivery of programs and services, and efficiencies, these objectives on oversight require more thought to having a Sahtu regional director position. The structure will provide the cohesiveness of management required to ensure efficiency and delivery of programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, on capacity and accountability, it is essential for this government to provide the necessary resources and decision to filling this position. Later, I will have questions for the Honourable Premier and Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
LOCAL ADDICTIONS TREATMENT OPTIONS

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address perhaps the greatest social issue affecting the Northwest Territories: the crisis of addiction, substance abuse, and chronic mental health problems.

I first want to acknowledge the work of the Standing Committee on Social Development and the efforts undertaken by the honourable Minister of Health and Social Services to review our current addictions treatment options and in working together to make progress on this continuing problem. However, the honourable Members of this House are not alone in their diligent efforts to make a difference in this government's support for addictions treatment. No, Mr. Speaker, as I have a constituent, Jennifer

Lafferty, who has taken it upon herself to advocate for renewed focus on local addictions treatment options.

Mr. Speaker, it has been encouraging working with Ms. Lafferty, a former addict who has become a tireless advocate for those seeking treatment. Since the fall of last year, she has hit the streets of our capital with a petition calling for more treatment options for those affected by addictions. For her efforts, I will now be introducing a petition later today with hundreds of signatures in support of this cause.

Mr. Speaker, addictions and mental health is one of the government's most important mandate priorities. It affects the lives of hundreds of Northerners and lingers on to impact future generations. As it has been made so clear to us by the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Indigenous peoples face systemic barriers in our society that non-Indigenous Canadians take for granted. Further, the Northwest Territories has the most residential school survivors per capita in Canada, not to mention the ongoing trauma caused by the Sixties Scoop, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and the continued overrepresentation of Indigenous people within our jails, our courtrooms, and the child welfare system. These shameful elements of our colonial past have contributed to the oppressive conditions for ever-present substance abuse and addictions borne of intergenerational trauma that Northerners are faced with on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, although this government is working hard to address the problem, we need even more tools and resources to be made available here at home to help our people heal and break the cycle of abuse. Too many of our most vulnerable community members are falling through the gaps in society. We need to close these gaps and give people the best chances possible at recovery here in the North. Northerners seeking wellness for themselves and their families need more than residential treatment options, but aftercare and detoxing services available in their communities. To quote Ms. Lafferty, "They want help, and not just a phone number."

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions later today about the state of aftercare and detox programs in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEMPSTER HIGHWAY BRUSH CLEARING

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, spring is a time that is celebrated by everyone in the territory, when we

welcome warmer temperatures, more sunshine, trees coming back to life, and the abundance of wildlife. On the Dempster highway, this also means that brush tends to overgrow.

In the past few years, the Department of Infrastructure has done a stellar job of clearing the brush. This year, it has already cleared about 15 kilometres of highway between Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik. Brush clearing is important, not only for fire smarting, but also to ensure that willows don't get too close to the highway, especially in the fall. This lowers the chances of moose coming onto the highway, which could pose serious dangers to drivers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Department of Infrastructure for coming to the Mackenzie Delta and clearing the brush along the highway. I would like to see the department continue their work this season and also clear brush from Fort McPherson to Tsiigehtchic.

Mr. Speaker, blind spots were done, but we need to ensure that the whole roadway is completed for the safety of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will have questions later today.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Hay River North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DIALYSIS TREATMENT PROGRAMS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Hay River Regional Health Centre has a beautiful dialysis unit that is staffed by a great group of practitioners. I hear nothing but good things about the services provided by that unit, and we are lucky to have it in Hay River.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is only enough staff to service eight dialysis patients, and that is simply not enough. The facility itself can easily accommodate more patients. There are four dialysis machines, but they are each only used twice a day, three days a week. In Yellowknife, I believe they run three shifts a day, six days a week. If we did that in Hay River, we could triple our capacity. I am not sure if we need that many slots available, but I know for a fact that we need more. Last that I heard, there were three residents of Hay River receiving dialysis treatment in Yellowknife, and prior to that, at least one of them was staying in Edmonton to receive treatment. Situations like this are not uncommon.

Most patients, if not all, who are sent to Yellowknife are put up at Vital Abel House. It is a boarding home that is meant to accommodate brief stays. However, Mr. Speaker, these dialysis patients are usually not there for just a night or two. It is more

likely that they are there for weeks, months, or even years.

These patients, many of them seniors, must leave their friends and families and move into a facility where they must share sleeping quarters and washrooms with strangers. These people have no privacy, none of the comforts or emotional supports that they would have back home, and have no idea when they will be able to return home. That is far from an ideal situation. It can have real negative effects on people's mental and physical health.

What I don't understand, Mr. Speaker, is why we do this. It is my understanding that it costs the government about \$200 a day to put people up in boarding homes such as Vital Abel. That's \$73,000 a year. It seems like there are always a few residents of Hay River staying at Vital Abel House so that they can receive dialysis. That's hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Mr. Speaker, it would be cheaper to get these people their own apartments in Yellowknife and put them up for a year. Moreover, I have constituents who have told me that they have had to sleep on the couch while staying at Vital Abel because there were no beds available.

Mr. Speaker, there must be a better way to provide dialysis treatment to the residents of Hay River. I will have questions for the Minister of Health at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to move to item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery, on the orders of the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to move item 6 right after Members' statements.

---Unanimous consent granted

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Michael Fatte in the gallery today. I spoke of Michael in the statement that I made today, working with the homeless people in Yellowknife, and I would also like to recognize YK Dene members, Jennifer Lafferty, Donald White, and the baby, Cameron Lafferty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Jennifer Lafferty, her partner Donald White, and their son Cameron. Thank you for being with us today and your hard work in developing the petition that I will be tabling later today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two Pages here, Kyra Sanguéz, who I have actually had the opportunity to coach this year, as well as Ava Erasmus, whose mother and father are really good friends, and grandparents I know really well. As well, I would like to recognize Debra Richards, who is my CA, who is also chaperoning our Pages from Simpson, and it's her birthday today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Happy birthday. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nunakput.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the translator from Nunakput, Ms. Annie Goose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and welcome a life-long friend of mine, Trevor Kasteel, to the House today. He recently won an award for community builder. He came from the NWT Disabilities Council. So, congratulations and welcome, and thank you for being here.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to move to item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills, on the orders of the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 6:

CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION ACT

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on

Government Operations and the Standing Committee on Social Development have reviewed Bill 6, Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act, and wish to report that Bill 6 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Member for Kam Lake. Bill 6 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 75(5) to have Bill 6, Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation, moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

Bill 6 is moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Masi. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Member for Nahendeh.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 7-18(3): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 6: CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION ACT

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are here today for the Standing Committee on Government Operations and the Standing Committee on Social Development report on the review of Bill 6, Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act.

Introduction

In April 2017, the federal government introduced two bills to legalize cannabis in Canada. Bill C-45 deals with federal licensing and oversight of the cannabis supply chain, including all production and distribution, and sets regulatory standards to protect public health and safety. Bill C-46 sets out offences and procedures relating to impaired driving.

To avoid having this default federal framework imposed on the Northwest Territories when the Government of Canada legalizes cannabis across the country, it is necessary for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to adopt its own framework. To create these rules, which pick up where federal legislation leaves off, the GNWT introduced Bill 6, the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act. Bill 6 proposed two new laws for cannabis control: the Cannabis

Products Act; and the Cannabis Smoking Control Act. To address drug-impaired driving, it also proposed amendments to current provisions of the territorial Motor Vehicles Act. This omnibus bill is the proposed legislation under review here.

Our Review of Bill 6

On March 1, 2018, Bill 6 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and was referred to the standing committee for review. The Standing Committee on Government Operations reviews activities of the Department of Finance, which will administer the Cannabis Products Act once it becomes law. Similarly, the Standing Committee on Social Development reviews activities of the Department of Health and Social Services, which will administer the Cannabis Smoking Control Act once it becomes law. These committees also share membership with the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, which reviews activities of the Department of Infrastructure, which in turn administers the Motor Vehicles Act. For this reason, the standing committees, operating as the "joint committee," with no pun intended, have worked together to review the bill.

Between April 23 and May 4, 2018, we travelled to 16 communities, holding 16 hearings. We also met with students at six schools to gather input from Northerners. These communities and schools are listed in an appendix. We received 15 written submissions, and have undertaken our own research, including a review of proposed cannabis legislation and best practices across the country.

In our review, we have assumed that the federal enabling legislation will be passed. Neither the standing committees nor the Government of the Northwest Territories may change or overrule this federal legislation. As Regular Members, our approach to Bill 6 has focused on the need to ensure that, as much as possible, territorial cannabis legislation best reflects the wishes of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Our report is divided into two portions. First, we will discuss what we heard from the public hearing during our tour. Then we will discuss what we did, a combination of motions to amend the bill and policy recommendations to the GNWT. The bill debated in the House after we have formally submitted our report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly will reflect the changes we have made.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass the reading of this report to the Member from Kam Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What We Heard

Economic Growth and Job Creation

Support for Private-sector Cannabis Stores

The GNWT proposed that cannabis be sold only in existing liquor stores for at least two years, with all business conducted through the Northwest Territories Liquor Commission and all expenses and revenues flowing through the Liquor Revolving Fund. The GNWT's initial consultation revealed that "preferences for the retail sales system were mixed, with little over half of survey respondents supporting the liquor commission model and others wanting opportunities for private stores or dispensaries."

However, this is not consistent with public views expressed during our tour. While a few witnesses expressed satisfaction with the Liquor Commission model, the majority of witnesses in small communities, regional centres, and Yellowknife objected to private businesses being excluded from cannabis retailing at the outset. Many residents are interested in the potential economic development and job growth that legalization may bring and are concerned that the GNWT has chosen to monopolize this opportunity. In Lutselk'e, Ms. Florence Catholique told us that: "Lutselk'e women have gotten together to deal with issues in the communities... to enhance the community, work with the youth, and protect rights. Because we knew this [hearing] was coming up, we looked at the business angle. We're looking for money to go to a cannabis workshop in Edmonton to get the details on how to run a [cannabis] business."

The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce advised that its members "strongly disagree with the proposed retail model." Their "formal position is that, if licenses are going to be issued for cannabis retail, Yellowknife entrepreneurs should have the opportunity to apply for those licenses and demonstrate that they can operate within the chosen regulatory framework." This sentiment was echoed by a representative of the NWT Chamber of Commerce, who said its members want the opportunity to get in on the recreational cannabis business from the start and are prepared to meet regulatory requirements to do so.

It is apparent that, although there are many unknowns in the emerging recreational cannabis market, many Northerners are eager to join their fellow Canadians in learning on the job. Medical cannabis consultant and advocate Ms. Kim MacNearney wrote, "the opportunity for cannabis business development in the NWT is huge and should be embraced by the GNWT, allowing it to grow in an entrepreneurial fashion."

Motion 3 and Recommendation 6 addressed this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to turn the reading of this report over to the Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Impacts of the liquor commission model on small communities. Many witnesses raised concerns that neither the potential side effects of the GNWT's proposed liquor commission model nor the unique needs of small communities were appropriately reflected in the bill. Under the proposed model, cannabis would be available in up to seven liquor stores in just six of 33 communities, provided that the owners of these private businesses, who currently sell GNWT-owned alcohol on consignment from the Liquor Commission, agree to sell cannabis. This would leave the majority of NWT communities, including all the small communities, reliant on a mail-order system. As proposed, this system would also operate through the Liquor Commission.

In smaller communities, residents travelling to larger centres to shop will often shop on behalf of neighbours and friends, as well. In Fort Liard, we heard that if residents' only alternative was mail-order, the proximity of Fort Nelson, BC, would ensure that most residents would travel there by car to purchase cannabis and that possession limits would likely not inhibit them from buying for as many legal purchasers as possible. Many residents expressed the view that the mail-order system is too restrictive, which could also encourage cannabis bootlegging. We heard repeatedly that in order to minimize bootlegging and encourage people to buy legal cannabis, cannabis should be cheap and plentiful. Mr. Jason Perrino wrote, "I want to see the illegal market cease to exist. New legislation and regulations can't be so restrictive that [people] continue to buy from dealers."

Residents also identified the challenges posed by limited job opportunities in smaller communities, coupled with expensive necessities (food, fuel, et cetera). Other witnesses noted that many residents have a strong desire to work and would welcome the jobs that could be created by cannabis sales in smaller communities. This absence of legitimate jobs is also seen as a factor contributing to bootlegging alcohol and dealing in illicit drugs. During a hearing at the Hay River Reserve, Mr. Jeffery Fabian said, "Bootleggers are feeding their own families with bootlegging. Food is expensive."

Again, Motion 3 and Recommendation 6 addressed this matter.

Record Suspension

We heard that criminal records related to cannabis are a barrier to employment, education, and travel opportunities. Mr. Amos Cardinal of the Hay River Reserve observed that living with a criminal record is like "dragging a big pile of garbage behind you." This burden is compounded by the expense associated with obtaining a record suspension; the Parole Board of Canada charges \$631 to process an application, and we heard that this cost is often an insurmountable obstacle for those who would otherwise be eligible. Several witnesses asked if record suspension for cannabis-related offences, administered through the Government of Canada, would be more readily available after legalization.

Recommendation 5 addresses this matter.

Revenues and Taxation

According to the Government of Canada, the "provinces and territories will work with municipalities towards legalization." However, during the consultation, we heard from the Northwest Territories Association of Communities. The association wrote that they:

"Have requested a municipal share of the revenue and have received an irrevocable no. While we respect that the revenues will be low for our territory and that communities are not responsible for policing in our jurisdiction, communities are currently underfunded to the tune of 37 per cent. They should not be expected to absorb these additional costs. The federal government increased the provincial/territorial share from 50 to 75 per cent so that it could be passed on to communities. Some jurisdictions in Canada have already announced they will be passing on 40 per cent of revenues to communities as well as providing training to all appropriate staff."

We heard concerns that, if government raises the price of cannabis too high, people will continue to buy it from the illicit dealers they already do business with. We also heard support for tax rates for cannabis products based on the concentration of THC, with high-concentration products subject to a higher tax rate. Several submissions suggested that cannabis revenues be targeted to public awareness and education campaigns. It was also suggested that pricing should be used to control youth access by making cannabis an expensive luxury.

Further, in nearly every community we visited, we heard recommendations to dedicate cannabis revenue to related public education and public health initiatives.

Recommendation 7 addresses this matter.

Public Education

Public education was discussed in every community we visited. Witnesses were interested in learning more about the bill itself, relevant health information, and federal rules for commercial cannabis production. We heard questions on cannabis "pros and cons," second-hand smoke, different types of cannabis products, the suppliers the GNWT intends to engage, options for plebiscites, school curricula, impacts on youth brain development and general human health, and more. We also heard recommendations for cannabis-specific training for community health nurses and youth workers, door-to-door information campaigns, and information delivery in Indigenous languages. Ms. Pauline Roche said, "Marijuana is here already. The GNWT has to put resources in schools and teach our kids." Mr. Jeff Norn recommended "tailored education [initiatives]" designed for a broad demographic: not only youth, but also elders, parents, law enforcement, et cetera.

These questions and comments tell us that Northerners are keen to understand cannabis legalization and its likely impacts on their communities. They also tell us that the GNWT has not clearly communicated its intentions for cannabis regulation. In Fort McPherson, Mr. Taig Connell asked, "How will legalization benefit the NWT? Will it create jobs, promote healthy programs? Who wins?" Effective public education is necessary to mitigate the risks posed by incorrect information, fears, or misconceptions about cannabis.

Recommendations 1 and 2 address this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of this report over to the Member for Hay River North.

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

MR. SIMPSON:

Public Health and Safety

Addictions treatment. Witnesses spoke of their desire for local clinical and on-the-land options for addictions treatment and aftercare, including programs for those living in small communities. Mr. Tim Harris also spoke of the value of the Substance Abuse Management program designed for use in our criminal justice system. Many witnesses were concerned that the GNWT will implement cannabis legalization without parallel plans to strengthen treatment options. Witnesses also spoke of the impact of isolation and shame on addictions and on the decision to pursue treatment, suggesting that public perception of cannabis and cannabis use will continue to evolve after legalization.

The Standing Committee on Social Development recently completed an in-depth examination of addiction treatment options described in Committee Report 4-18(3), Report on Adult Residential Addictions Treatment Facilities Tour 2017. In this report, the committee recommended that the Department of Health and Social Services enhance public communications on addictions treatment, enhance community-based aftercare services, and develop a pilot program to ensure that Northerners completing residential treatment placements are not discharged into homelessness. We await the GNWT's formal response to these recommendations.

Alcohol and Drugs in our Communities

Many witnesses spoke of alcohol's devastating impacts on our communities and on our Indigenous peoples, often comparing cannabis to alcohol. Some were concerned that cannabis would have severe and negative effects, as alcohol has. At the Hay River Reserve, Elder Pat Martel spoke through a translator:

"Sometimes, we talk about things or experiences of how it used to be, years ago, things that we know. Anybody talk about when you're drinking alcohol, I've been there. Today, sometimes people say, 'What do you know about what drugs can do to people?' I've seen what drugs can do to people... [I want to] have somebody come to us here and tell us how it's going to work, how you can buy, sell, grow. I need to know those things before I can sit here and say, 'It's okay' [or] tell my granddaughters they can smoke all they want. I'm not here for that; I'm here to protect them, not only from marijuana, but from drinking. I need you to think about those things and tell the government we asked for help."

Other witnesses asserted an opposing perspective. Also at the Hay River Reserve, Mr. Jeff Norn told us, "I have never seen anyone overdose on pot, [but] I have seen people in hospital, lives, families, communities destroyed with alcohol."

We have considered the views submitted to us and our own research. Although we recognize that cannabis and alcohol are distinct substances with different physiological and social impacts, we also recognize Northerners' concerns. We know that cannabis use is not without risk, particularly for youth and in use of high-potency products such as distilled cannabis resin (also called "shatter"), currently available illegally. In a written submission, the Registered Nurses of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut ("the nurses' association") recommended that "it would be proactive to get ahead of the curve" in preparing for the regulation of high-potency products, including edibles. Similarly, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Public Health Association ("the public health

association") recommended that high-potency products be subject to higher taxation.

Although cannabis and alcohol are not the same, Northerners spoke strongly in our public hearings of alcohol's toll on their communities and their strong desire to protect their families. Widespread cannabis use by minors and children as young as 12 years old was a grave concern expressed in many communities. Witnesses' proposals for improved public education and engagement, as well as community-led harm-reduction initiatives, further speak to their focus on public health and safety.

Recommendations 1 and 2 address these matters.

Co-location of Cannabis and Alcohol

We must also address the co-location of cannabis and alcohol sales, as proposed in the GNWT's retail model. Witnesses repeatedly echoed the federal Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation ("the task force"), which recommended "no co-location of alcohol or tobacco and cannabis sales, wherever possible, [and that] when co-location cannot be avoided, appropriate safeguards must be put in place."

Our research shows that in developing its retail model, the GNWT has broken with national trends: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador will not allow cannabis to be sold alongside alcohol. Further, in its written submission, the Canadian Cancer Society recommended against co-location to discourage "poly-substance use," or the co-occurring use of cannabis, alcohol, and/or tobacco. This is consistent with what we heard in our public hearings, where witnesses were concerned about the creation of "one-stop shops" for bootleggers and the temptation to purchase alcohol in addition to cannabis. In Lutselk'e, Ms. Florence Catholique said, "I do totally disagree with having the cannabis sold to us at the liquor store. I don't see the prohibition act as a remedy, but allowing them to go to the liquor store to buy the cannabis... It's also very tempting to buy a bottle." As discussed, many witnesses also opposed the GNWT's proposed liquor store retail model for economic reasons.

Motion 4 addressed this matter.

Enforcement Capacity and Community Resources

Bill 6 proposed two streams for territorial enforcement of cannabis laws: Enforcement of laws on possession, production, and sale under the Cannabis Products Act; and enforcement of laws on public smoking under the Cannabis Smoking Control Act. This is in addition to RCMP

enforcement of federal laws. However, many witnesses told us that enforcement responsibilities had not been clearly defined.

Limited enforcement resources were also a prominent concern in public hearings, both with respect to new cannabis-specific laws and more generally. Residents were skeptical of the GNWT's ability to enforce new laws in addition to the already challenging workloads. Community leaders from north to south stressed that they lack resources to enforce provisions of the cannabis legislation or bylaws that might flow from it in the future. We also heard recommendations for additional highway patrols, new RCMP positions, and new RCMP detachments. In Tsiigehtchic, Ms. Grace Blake summarized the issue: "We can have all the laws you want, but the problem is enforcing them."

Again, witnesses identified bootlegging as a major debilitating problem. Both bootlegging and the so-called online "grey market" are enforcement challenges impacting and impacted by the territory's cannabis retail model. We heard concerns that current drug dealers and/or alcohol bootleggers will incorporate cannabis bootlegging into their repertoire; that current cannabis dealers will transition to dealing harder drugs; and that the proposed retail model, coupled with limited enforcement resources, risks creating new bootleggers altogether.

In Fort Providence, Mr. Jim Thom warned that the GNWT risked substantial lost revenue if online grey market sales were not addressed, and, in Tuktoyaktuk, Ms. Marie Pokiak said, "I'm really tired of bootleggers making a living off it... We need an outlet for the sale of cannabis. Otherwise, we are creating more opportunity for illegal trade." These concerns were echoed in many other communities, often coupled with concerns about illegal sales to underage young people. Former Premier Nellie Cournoyea described illicit drug-dealing as a hidden, "ghostly" crime that causes great harm, even death, but most of the time, "no one will go to jail, no one will go to court." Recommendation 4 addresses these concerns.

I would now like to hand the report over to the Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

Impaired Driving and Road Safety

Bill 6 proposed a framework to govern driver's licence suspensions for drug-impaired driving, including zero-tolerance rules for young, novice, and commercial drivers. These zero-tolerance rules mean that drivers aged 21 or younger, and new and

commercial drivers of any age, will lose their driver's licence for 30 days if caught driving after using cannabis or any other drug. Mr. Sam Gargan of Fort Providence questioned the impact of these new rules on drivers' civil liberties.

Many witnesses also asked how police will determine whether a driver has used a drug or if a driver is subsequently impaired. In the Northwest Territories, the RCMP enforces impaired-driving laws. We understand that the RCMP intends to use a combination of practical technologies (e.g. mouth swabs) and subjective analysis (e.g. driver inspection by an officer trained as a drug recognition expert). However, drawing on our own research and the concerns brought to us during our tour, we have serious reservations about these methodologies.

Additionally, we heard concerns regarding cannabis-smoking in cars where children were present. This is prohibited under the proposed legislation, a decision we support, particularly given that cannabis is an intoxicant affecting driving ability.

We also note that, because on-road use of all-terrain vehicles such as quads is regulated under the All-terrain Vehicles Act, not the Motor Vehicles Act, neither current territorial impaired-driving legislation nor the amendments proposed in Bill 6 will apply to those vehicles.

Medical Cannabis

Many witnesses were concerned that Bill 6 would impact the prescription and use of medical cannabis. However, medical cannabis is regulated under separate federal legislation. The legal requirements governing the prescription and use have not changed, and will not be affected by this bill.

Possession Limits

Bill 6 proposed possession limits consistent with pending federal legislation: 30 grams per person and four plants per household. Many witnesses were interested in the rationale for these limits and identified concerns respecting cannabis consumption and growth in homes where minors reside.

As we have mentioned, many also questioned the impact of possession limits on small-community residents shopping for friends and neighbours in regional centres. Witnesses also noted their concerns that a 30-gram limit would encourage bootlegging, particularly if cannabis sales were restricted to existing liquor stores. Others suggested a two-tier possession limit with a lower possession limit (or cannabis potency limit) for those aged 19 to 25, reflecting the increased risks

to younger consumers suggested by recent research. We also heard questions about whether possession limits would apply in private residences.

Motions 7 and 8 addressed this matter.

Regulating Cannabis Use in Public Places

Witnesses were often uncertain about where Northerners will be permitted to smoke cannabis under the proposed legislation. We understand that the GNWT intends to clarify this matter through regulations, but we also feel strongly that the rules must be clearly communicated to residents. For example, witnesses asked about cannabis smoking at home, around minors, on sidewalks, in parks (municipal and territorial), in yards or on balconies, and in licensed establishments. It is evident that the GNWT has not clearly communicated one of the cornerstones of its cannabis framework.

Overall, we heard recommendations to restrict cannabis consumption in community spaces and around minors, but we were also reminded that we must ensure access to reasonable options for legal consumption. As legislators, we recognize each individual's right to safely access public spaces in accordance with the law and must balance this with our obligation not to frustrate cannabis legalization by making it practically impossible to use cannabis. We encourage the GNWT to monitor these issues as they evolve across the country, with a view to future improvements of territorial cannabis laws.

Motion 19 addressed this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of this report over to the honourable Member from Deh Cho. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Regulating Cannabis Use in Licensed Establishments

A regulatory framework for licensed establishments (e.g. "cannabis cafes" or "vape lounges") is outside the scope of the bill. This means that we could not amend the bill to explicitly allow such establishments immediately upon legalization. Still, we recognize that this subject is important to many residents.

Many witnesses, including the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the economic benefits potentially associated with such establishments. Others, such as the Canadian Cancer Society, raised health concerns, believing "cannabis cafes would be untenable if any worker were to be employed, [because] no worker should have to be exposed to any second-hand smoke,

[and] especially to continuous high concentrations." A third point of view, from the Public Health Association, suggested that "allowance for the use of specified dwellings in communities where it could be a safe place for those 19 years and older to consume cannabis" could reduce harm by encouraging cannabis consumption outside the home. Similarly, Ms. Kim MacNearney wrote of her concern that highly restrictive rules for public consumption would "perpetuat[e] the stigma of 'cannabis use and users are bad and should not be within public view.'"

Recommendation 3 addressed this matter.

Workplace Use and Impairment

We heard many questions about cannabis use and impairment in the workplace, particularly where impairment could pose a risk to public safety (e.g. pilots, truck and bus drivers, et cetera). Witnesses also asked about rules for employers and tools for determining impairment.

In a public meeting on April 20, 2018, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSSC) advised the committees that regulations and policy will be developed to address any changes arising from cannabis legalization. We trust that the WSSC will continue to provide all reasonable support to territorial employers, including legalization-specific training, materials, and other supports. We also note that employers are able to have their own policies related to drug use and/or impairment in the workplace, while the Mine Health and Safety Regulations already prohibit "impair[ment] by alcohol or drugs while at work."

Youth

Legal age

Bill 6 proposed that the minimum legal age for cannabis purchase, possession, and use will be 19 years, as it is for alcohol.

During our tour, we heard support for maintaining the proposed legal age, as well as raising it (for example, to 21 years or to 25 years) and lowering it (e.g. to 18 years). Students in Ulukhaktok and Tuktoyaktuk discussed a range of options, up to age 21. Other witnesses spoke to the impact of cannabis on brain development in children and youth, given that contemporary medical science suggests that parts of the brain continue to develop through age 25. We heard advocacy for a "harm-reduction" approach, although some citing this methodology felt that a higher legal age would not prevent consumption, but instead encourage illegal consumption, while others put forward an opposing view.

We also heard comparisons to the Northwest Territories' legal age for purchase and consumption of tobacco (18 years). The Canadian Cancer Society recommended "that the GNWT set the same legal for cannabis and tobacco [in its proposal, age 21], and ensure active enforcement of regulations prohibiting the sale of cannabis and tobacco products to minors is fully implemented." Students at Hay River's Diamond Jenness Secondary School made similar comparisons, noting that the GNWT's proposed legislation would incongruously allow northern teens to legally access cigarettes with "tonnes of chemicals" before they are able to legally access cannabis.

Our research shows that the decision to synchronize legal age for both alcohol and cannabis is consistent with those of all other Canadian jurisdictions except Manitoba's. Ongoing studies continue to assess the impacts of cannabis, which has generally increased in potency over the last 50 years, on the human brain. We encourage the GNWT, as both a cannabis regulator and healthcare provider, to monitor this research.

Purchase and Possession by Minors

Bill 6 proposed to prohibit minors from possessing any cannabis and to ticket for possession, with penalties consistent with those for youth possession of both alcohol and cigarettes. As set out in proposed federal legislation, minors will face criminal charges only if they are found to possess or distribute more than five grams.

Throughout our engagement, Northerners emphasized their belief that education at home, at school, and in the community is essential and that youth should not be criminalized. Students at Deninu School in Fort Resolution suggested that an appropriate enforcement response to youth possession under five grams would be the seizure of any cannabis and discussion with parents or guardians, not a monetary penalty.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of this report over to the Member for Sahtu. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: Other Issues

Community Control

The territorial plebiscite regime enables community control of alcohol (e.g. restrictions or prohibitions). Bill 6 proposed a similar model for cannabis. Many witnesses asked questions about plebiscites, when they would occur, how they would be organized, and were generally supportive of community control. For some, however, "community control" meant coordinating plebiscites

and any subsequent restrictions, while for others this meant local options for retail and production, as we have discussed.

Some witnesses also questioned the overall reasonableness of the plebiscite system, suggesting that, if cannabis is legalized throughout Canada, then each Canadian has a right to consume it.

Although witnesses did not always agree, personal and community autonomy were consistent themes. In Deline, Mr. Morris Neyelle said, "We have to work together to deal with this issue. Marijuana will be with us until the end of the world. It is up to the community to decide... how to deal with it." Ms. Nora Wedzin of Behchoko added this advice: "Don't create what happened with alcohol. Don't impose on [the] community. Listen first."

Notably, the bill would prohibit plebiscites in any community where a cannabis store already operates. This means that communities face a potentially narrow window to exercise plebiscite options, as highlighted in a written submission from the Northwest Territories Association of Communities. It is critical that these timelines be communicated clearly to the public and that all communities be given reasonable opportunity to pursue a plebiscite if they so desire.

Motions 5, 6, 9, and 21 addressed this matter.

Jurisdiction

We heard questions about the regulation of cannabis on reserves and in communities with provisions for self-government:

"First Nations communities and Indigenous governments must have more input into how cannabis laws will be governed within their communities. They must have greater autonomy with how they want to go about legalization, especially in terms of taxation (they should get a cut of the profit, along with the territorial and federal governments), ownership of cannabis retail outlets, and the pricing of all cannabis products in stores that would exist within their communities."

Although these questions are outside of the scope of Bill 6 and are to be debated between negotiating parties, we recognize that they are very important to Indigenous governments. We understand that the territorial government is developing a negotiating mandate on cannabis, and we expect that as legalization proceeds, the GNWT will work more openly and directly with its inter-governmental partners. Members look forward to regular updates as the GNWT's work proceeds on these matters.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of this report to the Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. BLAKE:

Mandatory Review of Legislation

Not since the prohibition of alcohol was lifted in the majority of Canadian provinces in the 1920s has the country seen an initiative like the national legalization of cannabis. During our public engagement, many people voiced concerns about the "unknowns" associated with legalization. We expect that the GNWT and its federal/provincial/territorial counterparts will encounter issues and circumstances not fully anticipated when cannabis legislation was drafted.

At public hearings in Behchoko, Inuvik, and Tuktoyaktuk, some witnesses emphasized the need to revisit cannabis legislation after communities have firsthand experience of the results. The point was made that the government must respond promptly to public needs after enacting laws of this magnitude.

Motion 22 addressed this matter.

What We Did

To complete our review of Bill 6, we considered all public submissions and reviewed national best practices and other jurisdictions' proposed cannabis frameworks. In response, we developed 11 motions to amend the bill and eight broader recommendations to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Clause-by-Clause Review of Bill 6

The clause-by-clause review of Bill 6 was held on May 28, 2018, at the Legislative Assembly building in Yellowknife. The Committees moved 22 motions, including nine developed by the Department of Justice and two developed by the Member for Frame Lake.

Motion 1: To amend subsection 1(1) of Schedule A to define "consume"

The terms "consume," "smoke," and "use" are used throughout the bill, but the distinction between them may be unclear to the average reader. This motion provided clarity by establishing that "consume" includes, but is not exclusive to, both smoking and the consumption of cannabis products ("edibles").

Motion 2: To amend subsection 1(1) of Schedule A to delete the definition of "public place"

This motion was developed by the Department of Justice to correct a drafting error by deleting the definition for "public place" under the proposed

Cannabis Products Act. Because this term is not used in the act, a definition was unnecessary.

Motion 3: To amend section 5 of Schedule A to revise the retail model for cannabis sales in the Northwest Territories

This motion ensured that private retailers, other than those operating liquor stores through consignment with the Liquor Commission, may be designated as cannabis vendors. The motion proposed to require the Minister of Finance to designate a cannabis vendor if the vendor met prescribed criteria. It also proposed that although cannabis vendors may also be liquor retailers, liquor retailer status will not be required.

This motion was carried. However, the Minister did not concur, so the bill was not amended.

Motion 4: To amend section 5 of Schedule A to prohibit co-location of cannabis and alcohol

This motion provided that where a cannabis store will be located in the same building as a liquor store, the two establishments must be entirely separate, including separate exterior doors. This reflects what we heard from Northerners, as well as national best practices.

This motion was carried. However, the Minister did not concur, so the bill was not amended.

Motions 5 and 6: To amend subsection 6(1) of Schedule A to clarify rules for community consultation prior to designating a cannabis vendor

Bill 6 initially proposed that where no cannabis store operated in a community, the Minister of Finance would be required to ascertain a community's views before designating a cannabis vendor. This motion expanded that requirement to ensure such notice will be given at any time a new cannabis vendor is considered. It also established that where the potential vendor would be the community's first, the Minister would be required to give notice of plebiscite rules, ensuring that sufficient time is available to hold a plebiscite as needed.

Motion 7: To amend section 11 of Schedule A to clarify limits on household possession of cannabis

This motion was developed by the Department of Justice to explicitly provide that the 30-gram possession limit does not apply to cannabis held in a person's private residence.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of this report to the Member for Frame Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President.

Motion 8: To amend clause 11 of Schedule A to develop a two-tier, age-based possession framework

This motion was developed by the Member for Frame Lake. It proposed to maintain the proposed 30-gram possession limit for those aged 25 and over, but to establish a 10-gram possession limit for those aged 19 to 24. This enables the choice of consumption for all those of legal age, while also establishing a model of limited consumption for younger adults.

This motion was carried. However, the Minister did not concur, so the bill was not amended.

Motion 9: To amend Schedule A to expand plebiscite options

This motion was proposed by the Member for Frame Lake. Under the bill, plebiscites will not be permitted in any community with an operating cannabis store. This motion proposed to allow plebiscites in a community with an operating cannabis store, if the store has been in operation for two or more years, if at least 20 per cent of the voters in the community petition the Minister to hold a plebiscite, and if the plebiscite proposes only sales restrictions, not a prohibition-based system.

This motion was not carried. As such, the bill was not amended.

Motion 10: To delete section 23 of Schedule A

This motion deleted the provision enabling the Minister of Finance to form a committee to advise him or her on territorial cannabis industry operations. We believe that public involvement in cannabis regulation is essential, but feel that the proposed advisory committee could unfairly prejudice such involvement. First, the GNWT has stated that it does not intend to strike such a committee in the foreseeable future. Second, we consider that as elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories, Members of the Legislative Assembly already have a mandate to consult residents on the operation of the Cannabis Products Act and the cannabis industry. We were also concerned that this provision has the potential to provide a non-elected body, without required qualifications, with an unfettered ability to influence the administration of the act.

Motions 11 and 14: To amend sections 29 and 71 of Schedule A to create regulation-making authority respecting cannabis cultivation

These motions were developed by the Department of Justice to create regulation-making authority

respecting the growing, cultivation, propagation, and harvesting of cannabis.

Motion 12: To amend subsection 42(3) of Schedule A to clarify rules for individuals accompanying inspectors under the act

In its original form, Bill 6 would have allowed an inspector to be accompanied in their duties by "any other individual that the inspector believes is necessary," providing an overly broad scope. The amending motion defined clear parameters for such accompaniment. This will ensure that inspectors may be appropriately supported in their work while also assuring the general public that inspectors' powers are limited to the fulfillment of their duties under the act.

Motion 13: To amend section 52 of Schedule A to clarify rules for court-ordered forfeiture of property

This motion defined clear parameters for the forfeiture of seized property where a person has not been convicted of an offence under the act. Bill 6 had proposed to allow the Minister to apply for a judicial order requesting the forfeiture of seized cannabis, as well as "any other property" seized, where a person charged with an offence is not convicted. While we understand that there may be situations where forfeiture is appropriate, as when the property's owner is not known, we found this power overly broad. We were concerned about the potential for infringement on residents' civil liberties and noted that a similar provision in the Liquor Act is not as broad.

Motions 15 and 17: To amend Schedules A and B to create new sections addressing transitional rules for cannabis cultivation and smoking in rental properties and condominium corporations

This motion addresses transitional rules for existing leases on rental properties and existing condominium bylaws following cannabis legalization. Where a rental agreement or condominium bylaw addresses tobacco smoking, the same rules will apply to cannabis smoking. Additionally, cannabis cultivation will be permitted in rental properties where permitted under the rental agreement. If the rental agreement is silent on this matter, cultivation will be permitted unless the landlord notifies the tenant in writing that it is prohibited.

Motion 16: To amend subsection 8(3) of Schedule B to correct a drafting error

This motion was developed by the Department of Justice to address a drafting error. It ensures that the Cannabis Products Act is referenced correctly, using its full title.

Motion 18: To amend subsection 8(3) of Schedule B to correct a drafting error

This motion was developed by the Department of Justice to address a drafting error. It ensures that inspectors fulfilling their duties under the act may submit any lawfully collected sample of a substance for analysis.

Motion 19: To amend section 20 of Schedule B to establish regulation-making authority respecting restriction or prohibition of cannabis smoking areas adjacent to public places

This motion established authority for the Minister to consider the future development of rules for cannabis smoking in areas adjacent to public places, such as school grounds and business establishments.

Motion 20: To amend paragraph 13(3)(a) of Schedule C to correct a drafting error

This motion was developed by the Department of Justice to ensure that all references to "drinking and driving" offences in the Motor Vehicles Act would be identified as "alcohol and drug related" driving offences. Previously, one reference had been missed.

Motion 21: To amend subsection 1(4) of Bill 6 to address a drafting error in the bill's coming-into-force schedule

This motion was developed by the Department of Justice to address a technical transitional error. It ensures that the community engagement required before the Minister may designate a cannabis vendor will occur after the bill receives assent, but before cannabis is formally legalized.

Motion 22: To amend Bill 6 to establish a mandatory one-time review of territorial cannabis legislation

In rare instances, such as in the Official Languages Act, legislation requires the Legislative Assembly to review a statute on a regular basis. Past experience reveals that recurring reviews can be costly and time consuming and may not result in legislative change. However, we feel that there is value in this motion, which amended the bill to ensure that there will be a review of the territory's cannabis legislation after it has been in effect for a few years.

We stress that this does not preclude future reviews of the legislation created by Bill 6. As legislators, Members of the Legislative Assembly retain the right to review and reconsider existing legislation at their prerogative, provided it is done in accordance with the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of this report over to the Member for Kam Lake. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a fully costed implementation plan for Bill 6, including multi-demographic public education, enforcement planning, and expected cannabis revenues; that this plan be returned to the committees for review prior to legalization day; and that the final plan be made available to the public.

Overall, we found that the GNWT did not adequately provide citizens of the Northwest Territories with information about the proposed framework for cannabis regulation, resulting in uncertainty for communities and citizens. This placed the committees in the unenviable position of serving as a source of public information on a government bill while it was under our review. Throughout our tour, residents asked about the impacts of cannabis legalization on our communities and our economy, on existing services, and on the social challenges we already face. We heard questions about enforcement responsibilities and training, public education, healthcare (including mental health and addiction counselling), guidelines for entrepreneurs and producers, and rules for plebiscites. We also heard clearly that residents want public education that targets not only youth, but also adults and elders. Legalization will affect all Northerners, and they deserve to be informed.

The implementation of cannabis legalization is a monumental task. An implementation plan, outlining such things as targeted communication initiatives (e.g. campaigns for children, youth, parents, elders, et cetera), timelines for vendor designation, enforcement training initiatives, follow-up community engagement, and inter-departmental and inter-agency collaboration, would provide a clear and accessible public roadmap. This is a natural next step in the GNWT's "way forward" for cannabis legalization.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop curricula to deliver evidence-based health and safety education respecting both cannabis and alcohol through the territorial education system.

Residents of all ages emphasized the importance of education, and both the Public Health Association and the Nurses Association spoke to the importance of legislation and policy founded in principles of harm reduction. We are under no illusions: we know that Northerners of all ages currently use cannabis, and we feel strongly that multi-demographic public education is essential. However, we also know that, as elsewhere in Canada, young people comprise a significant portion of active users and that targeted education programming works. Consider the Don't Be a Butthead anti-tobacco campaign, which saw interactive educational modules delivered through territorial schools and which was praised during our tour. It is necessary that territorial health curricula reflect the realities of cannabis legalization and provide young people growing up under legalization with evidence-based information on cannabis and poly-substance use.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories form an inter-departmental working group to prepare for the future regulation of cannabis-based products, including high-potency cannabis products, and licensed establishments for cannabis consumption.

With legalization, an illegal substance will become legal and available for recreational use. Accordingly, Northerners will be looking for safe, recreational places to consume cannabis, comparable to bars and lounges for alcohol. We also know that high-potency products are already available illicitly, while the legalization of edibles is expected within the next two years. The development of regulatory frameworks to address these matters will be a large task. Beginning this work now will help to mitigate operational challenges in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of this report over to the honourable Member for Nahendeh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank all of the Members who are reading the report at this moment.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories form an inter-agency working group to address cannabis-related enforcement planning.

Enforcement responsibilities were a recurring topic of discussion during our tour. Members of the public, representatives of community governments, and enforcement officials themselves raised questions and concerns. An inter-agency working group, potentially including GNWT inspectors and environmental health officers, municipal enforcement, the RCMP, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, and other parties as needed, could ensure that the new laws are clearly communicated. Such a working group could also encourage discussion and information-sharing, and provide additional support to communities with limited resources.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories work with the Government of Canada and other government partners to resolve outstanding questions on record suspensions for offences related to cannabis possession.

We recognize that the federal government is responsible for administering record suspension, but we feel strongly that the territorial government must engage its federal counterparts on this matter.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop economic development programs to support northern entrepreneurship related to cannabis sale and production.

The GNWT administers several strong and successful programs to support entrepreneurs and community economic development, including the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) policy. We heard repeatedly that Northerners are eager to pursue the economic benefits of legalization. Targeted programs addressing cannabis-specific planning and programming would help local businesses, and the territorial economy, to grow and thrive.

Recommendation 7

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories consider specific spending targets for the distribution of cannabis-related revenues aimed at public education, public awareness, and public health research related to cannabis use; and that the Liquor Commission report on cannabis sales in its annual report.

To address the revenue-related concerns we heard during our tour, we investigated options to amend Bill 6 to specify that cannabis revenue be targeted to specific expenditures in a manner similar to the disposition of territorial lottery revenue. However, the committees' legal counsel advised that an amendment of this nature would be out of bounds because it is the government's exclusive privilege to propose how to spend its revenues.

Nevertheless, we hear and support residents' calls for targeted investment by the GNWT in matters of public concern related to cannabis use. With this recommendation, we urge the GNWT to take action.

Recommendation 8

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

Conclusion

The Standing Committees on Government Operations and Social Development thank everyone involved in the review of this bill, with particular thanks to those who provided their input and recommendations. All committee reports and public submissions are available online at the Legislative Assembly website: www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.

This concludes our review of Bill 6. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that the Committee Report 7-18(3): Standing Committee on Review of Bill 6: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation and Implementation Act, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The Committee Report 7-18(3): Standing Committee on the Review of Bill 6: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act is received and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 100(4) and to have the Committee Report 7-18(3): Report on the Review of Bill 6: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 100(4) to have the Committee Report 7-18(3) Report on the Review of Bill 6 be received by Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

---Unanimous consent granted

We have unanimous consent to have Committee Report 7-18(3): Standing Committee on the Review of Bill 6: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act received by this Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 7, acknowledgements. Member for Nahendeh.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 8-18(3):
JOHN AND LOUISA MOREAU

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to recognize John and Louise Moreau, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 8th. They met at the Giant Mine dance in Yellowknife while both being employed at the Giant Mine. After being married 10 months, they moved to Fort Simpson, where they still reside today. They are strong pillars of the community. They have five children; Brenda, Becky, James, Barbara, and Clayton; and eight grandchildren, Sidonie, Malorey, Victoria, Shelton, Tonya, Ethan, Laine, and Naren; and two great-grandchildren, Lillian and Greyer. They are both role models for all of us. Marriage is a huge commitment. I would like to congratulate them for this huge milestone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Acknowledgements. Colleagues, before we proceed onto oral questions, I will call for a short break. Masi.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, Members. The next item on our list was item 8, oral questions, before we took a break. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 314-18(3):
MANDATE OF STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. In March, the Minister promised to consult women of the NWT about the new direction she is setting the Status of Women Council by conducting a survey. Where can women find that survey and respond to it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I did promise to do a survey regarding voices of women. At this point, we have not got that developed yet. I think it is okay to say that my last women's advisor actually decided to move back to her home community about that time, so I just hired a new woman, Elizabeth. I can't think of her last name at this point. So we will be reinstating that work.

MS. GREEN: In the meantime, change is afoot at the Status of Women Council. It's worth noting that the Status of Women Council lays out an arm's-length but accountable agency, but I feel the act is being frustrated because key pieces of the council's work have been removed. What is the impetus for this change? What is the council doing wrong?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: What is the council doing wrong? I have no idea, Mr. Speaker, what the council is doing wrong. In fact, for the last two years, I have been asking the council to meet with them. The council has only met during session, and I have gone to them when I can meet with them. It is during session, and I have only been able to go in for a lunch hour and say hi and leave to come running right back to session.

I have asked them over the last two years that I want to meet with them. I have given no direction, period, to the Status of Women Council. I know that I have been accused of giving directions, but I have given none. In fact, the only conversation I have had was asking them to have a meeting when it is not in session so I would be able to talk to them about what they were doing and how we could work together, but to this day, that has not happened.

I did phone the president the other day, and she is wanting to meet with me, as well, but to this day, I have given no direction, period, to the Status of Women Council, nor have I met with them, other than to attend a quick dinner before I return to session.

MS. GREEN: I am puzzled by that response, because, on March 12th in this House the Minister said that she had met with them at that point a couple of weeks ago, and they had been reviewing

their budget and so on and so forth. This is all available in Hansard.

Where is this direction coming from, if not from the Minister, to change the mandate or the work of the Status of Women?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, during one of the dinner events that I went to, I did tell them at that time that I wanted to meet with them, that I wanted to have at least a four-hour meeting that we could actually talk about the direction and how we could work together. I did meet with them, and like I had said earlier, I also met with them during lunch hours, but it was only a matter of going in, saying a cordial "glad to work with you," and then I had to run back. I don't really consider those actually directional meetings, and nor should I, because it is not my authority to give direction to them.

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre actually brought it up to me the other day and stated that she had heard that the Status of Women Council had decided to stop chairing the Family Violence Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I would never give direction to stop working with the Family Violence Coalition. I am a child of violence, not a slap on the hand, of fists and boots and knives and guns and hospitals and RCMP detachments. I know family violence, I have lived family violence, and I would never stop anyone from addressing that issue.

I called the president because I had concerns, and the president told me. She said that they are looking at a strategic plan. They need to review things because, she said, 75 per cent of their time was donated to just supporting the Family Violence Coalition. That's half a million dollars in funding that we are giving; 75 per cent was going to that. I never gave direction to stop. The council themselves wanted to look into it to see if that is the best use of their resources.

Mr. Speaker, at no point have I given direction to stop. In fact, when the MLA from Yellowknife Centre asked me that a couple of days ago, I replied via email and, actually, in conversation stated that I never gave direction to stop. I do take a little bit of offence that I have been accused of it, because at no time have I ever, nor at no time would I ever, give any direction to stop combatting family violence. We have huge family violence rates in the Northwest Territories. It is an issue we need to deal with.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't question the Minister's commitment to eradicating family violence, but there is a great

deal of confusion around who is taking the leadership on this file. The Status of Women Council feels that it is no longer their job. It was their job for 19 years because they are at arm's length, and they are in a unique advocacy role. What is the Minister going to do, then, to put right this issue of the drifting coalition against family violence? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated, I did phone the president and was asking where the direction came from, recognizing that she does have the authority to direct the council and to direct the staffing, as the speaker for the whole board. Where did the direction come from? That is something that they are looking at.

I did take note that the MLA did state within her opening statement that it is arm's length, and it needs to be arm's length. Our act says that they can advise the Minister on issues, and I can refer them back to the council for consideration. It says that they can provide assistance to the Minister in promoting change to ensure the attainment of equality of women. That's what it states. I can give some support to them. I can ask them to help me. I can ask them to look into things, but at no time do I see in this act that I can tell them, "This is what you do in your day-to-day in operations." In fact, there are "mays" in this act that say they may do other things.

The Status of Women Council needs to have autonomy so that they can decide what they are doing best with the resources that they have. I can give suggestions, but I will not direct them. They need to be able to do what they want to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 315-18(3):
SAMBAA K'E COMMUNITY GYM

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions will be to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment today. In my Member's statement, you heard me talk about the community in Sambaa K'e, about their school expansion and the issue about the gym. My first question to the Minister: the architects in the department made a commitment to come back and give them alternative options there. Has the department provided these options to the community? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most Members know that I just took over

this portfolio a month ago, and so I didn't know what was going on before that time. However, I did ask the department, and they told me that no options were developed specifically for the community. However, at a community expansion meeting held in October 2017, the department confirmed that there was sufficient space on the land reserve where a larger community gym could be built. I don't believe, according to my notes, that they looked at different options, but they did reaffirm that the space that the school was on could actually support a larger gym if that was what the community wanted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. I realize she wasn't the one in there, but my big problem is that the community was promised to have some alternatives in the expansion. We will probably have to disagree with that, and we will probably have to try to get the Minister in there.

My next question, though, is in regard to this. Without having a good gym in this community, we have a safety issue. How is the department working with the community and the school to ensure that they have quality and safe education programs in the school?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Quality and safe education in the community; I am guessing you are meaning facilities in the community. Student safety is a primary focus within all education systems in the Northwest Territories. Every school has a safety plan. We make sure that we take care of the children as best as possible. Incidents will occasionally happen. As soon as incidents happen, we go in. We do an investigation. We make sure that that issue hopefully wouldn't happen again. We look for solutions for that. I know that, if there are issues with gyms, et cetera, if we don't have that support, then we look at other ways within the communities that we can actually provide the activities, physical activities for children, but still making sure that they are supervised within a safe manner.

I might be a little bit confused about the MLA's question, but I am trying to answer it the best that I can.

MR. THOMPSON: I apologize to the Minister. Maybe I should write the questions and send them to her so that I get clearer direction of what I am trying to ask. So I must apologize to the Minister for that. I am hearing a lot that the government is not going to put a gym in this community because of the population there, so will the department work with the community to come up with a plan, and, if that plan involves going to the federal government, will they work with the community to actually approach the federal government to provide a gym,

a community gym, so they can have safe, quality recreation programs?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Gyms are important in communities. Children need to have physical activity, so the Department of Education does try to make sure that there is some kind of facility. In communities where there are under 150 students, it is not feasible at this time to actually put in a school gym, so what the department does in that case, they try to work with the community to make sure that there is activity to a facility that children can access as a gym. So, in that community, I know that they are looking at building a new gym or extending it, so, in that case, we are more than willing to work with the community.

I should state, though, that it's not only working with the community. We will work with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs because, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, their mandate is to actually work with community governments to access federal funding for capital projects. How do I know that? I just happen to know that, Mr. Speaker. So I promise I will work closely with the community and with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to address the need for a community gym.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I understand what the Minister has said, and I thank her for that. I know the reality. I was there when they built it. It was a community hall, and they expanded it to make it a "community gym." It's not a community gym. It's a large meeting room. So, the Minister, I know she is really busy because of a lot of work that she has to do over this summer. Is she willing to work with me to go into the community, have a sit-down with the community, discuss it, see for herself what the community is talking about, and see what the department is calling a gym right now? Will she make that commitment?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As a Minister, my responsibility is to represent all communities and all residents of the Northwest Territories. I would be more than honoured to actually go with the Member to the community to actually work with the community and see what we can do to support them. As the Member stated, my schedule is very busy over the summer with all of the graduations that are taking place, but as soon as we can find a mutually agreeable time, I am more than willing to go in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 316-18(3):
SAHTU REGIONAL OPERATIONS

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's statement, my question is to the Premier, Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs. With the growing employees in the Sahtu region and departments, can the Honourable Premier elaborate and give consideration to the position for a Sahtu regional director? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the 16th Legislative Assembly, the Government of the Northwest Territories had five regional directors, including a regional director for the Sahtu, and, in the 16th Legislative Assembly, the government of the day saw fit to reduce the number of regional directors from five to two, so we have a north and a south regional director. It was seen as a cost-saving measure, and, also, the fact is that, at that time, it was felt that the workload did not justify the need for a regional director in every region.

MR. MCNEELY: The 16th Assembly to the 18th, two Assemblies later; in consideration of our physical positive position, would the Premier reconsider this reinstatement for this position here before the end of the 18th?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Through decentralization and a number of other Government of the Northwest Territories initiatives, the programs and service delivery is being done by departments and agencies in the Sahtu, and we have recently increased the management with the superintendent of infrastructure position, so now all Department of Infrastructure projects and issues are managed out of the Sahtu regional office.

MR. MCNEELY: Thanks to the Premier for that response. Talking about projects and employees, they are two different things here. It seems to me that, where we are growing in the Sahtu, thanks to the government to date, as mentioned in the statement, we have grown to 375 employees, but the challenge in the Sahtu is communicating to the surrounding communities when in most cases there is only annual access. So, given that challenge, would the Premier consider reinstatement prior to the end of the 18th to that position?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We travel throughout the regions, and every time we go into a region we have had a senior management meeting with all of the senior management in the region. The last few times we have been in the Sahtu, there have been no outstanding issues that would indicate that the Sahtu would be better served with a Sahtu regional director over a rotating departmental regional superintendent to chair the senior management

committee. For example, in front-line workers, there were an additional 41 positions, as the Member stated, over the last two years in Norman Wells for the new Sahtu Regional Health and Social Services Long-term Care Centre, and so I think hiring those front-line workers would be a more appropriate use of scarce resources and will better serve Sahtu residents.

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

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Premier for that response here. I will use a couple of examples. The probationary officers from the Sahtu have to report north to the Inuvik office, and the financial services personnel have got to report to Yellowknife. Those are just examples of outside decision-making authorities given to the destination of the region. Would the Premier consider providing some options to my office for further consideration of this reinstatement, if possible?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: There are also four GSO positions in the Sahtu, and they are supervised and supported by the manager of regional operations, who works with the regional director who is located in Inuvik. Having said that, we are now into business planning for the 2018-2019 season or into the last year of the 18th Assembly, so, as part of the business-planning process, we always review our operations, so I will be pleased to have a look at this again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 317-18(3):

HAY RIVER DIALYSIS TREATMENT SERVICES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about the plight of dialysis patients, not just from Hay River North or Hay River South but from across this territory, who must relocate to Yellowknife to receive the life-saving treatment that they need. In the South Slave, we have a beautiful dialysis centre in Hay River, a wonderful staff, and I hear nothing but good things coming from there. I spoke of the costs of housing people in Yellowknife, taking them away from their home, taking them away from their families, and the emotional and physical toll this can have on them. So, given all this, has the department looked at the business case for increasing staff at the Hay River Regional Health Centre in the dialysis unit so we can keep people in their homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for his question. Dialysis is an important service that is provided to residents of the Northwest Territories. In the Northwest Territories, we have the ability to provide dialysis in two communities. That is the hemodialysis. We also support peritoneal dialysis, which can be done at individuals' homes and individuals' communities.

To the Member's point, I hear the Member loud and clear. I agree with the Member. We need to do more to provide those services close to home. We would prefer not to have people coming from Hay River to Yellowknife when that service is provided in Hay River. Before we move forward with considering expanding the service in Hay River, we need to make sure that we are benefitting from the other opportunities that exist for us, such as the peritoneal dialysis, which can be done in the people's homes at home, and other options, whether it is a treatment in Hay River and then a treatment in Yellowknife offset by peritoneal dialysis. I am totally saying that wrong every time I say it, and I accept that.

There is a lot of work we have to go here. I hear the Member, and we are prepared to start that work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I think it is a pretty easy decision, given the numbers that I quoted earlier. It is about \$200 a night, from my understanding, to put someone up in a boarding home. That is about \$73,000 a year. There are always a handful of people from Hay River and, I am sure, surrounding communities in Yellowknife. We can get them their own apartments in Yellowknife so that they at least have some privacy if they are there.

I have heard of people being in Vital Abel for years on end. That is not a very comfortable way for our elders to live. Has the government looked at different ways to house dialysis patients who have to come to Yellowknife for these long stretches of time?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: This is an area where there is currently a policy gap that we are actually working on. We have done some medical relocations as a result of things like dialysis, and we are certainly open to that on a case-by-case basis until we re-fix that policy.

Having said that, yes, we do have individuals stay at the Vital Abel House. If they are staying for extended periods of time, the option does exist for them to go out and get their own accommodations or stay with family or other things, at which point we would provide \$68 a day, which equates to just over \$2,000 a month that eligible residents of the Northwest Territories can utilize. If we have a

patient from Hay River who is coming up for an extended period of time, they simply have to have a discussion with us about not staying at the Vital Abel, collecting their \$68 a month, and finding accommodations which are more appropriate and suitable for them for long-term stays.

MR. SIMPSON: That sounds like a heck of a deal for the government. They would save \$4,000 a month that way. The problem is: these people go up for dialysis, and they are told, "You might be here for a year. You might be here for two months. We don't know. We have to wait until a spot opens up."

I will take a play from the Member for Nahendeh's playbook. I will ask the Minister again: will the Minister look at different ways of housing these dialysis patients in Yellowknife?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I will say it again: we are doing exactly that. We can make \$68 a day, which works out to over \$2,000 a month, which is a lot of money, for someone to rent out private accommodations and purchase food. We are looking at providing more options in Hay River. Hay River has indicated that we would like to explore other ways to provide dialysis, whether that is through some dialysis in Yellowknife and some dialysis in Hay River so people can be closer to home, offset by the peritoneal dialysis where appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I hear the Member. I get what the Member is saying. We are working on this, and we are going to find some solutions. The Member is insistent on referencing the \$73,000, which is his calculation, but the Member does know that, in this House, money is allocated from particular sources. In this particular case, those dollars are coming out of medical travel. If we want to put new positions in Hay River and expand the service, we have to go through a business planning process, build the business case, which means we have to demonstrate that we have explored all opportunities. I am simply saying that is what we are doing in Hay River. When we find a solution, we will make the investment where appropriate.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I failed to mention in my last question that it is hard for someone to sign a lease for a year if they are told they are going to be there for maybe a year, maybe a couple months. That is part of the issue. I appreciate what the Minister is saying. I look forward to moving some money around so we can get this issue dealt with.

I have heard in the past that there have been situations where a patient might stay a couple of weeks in Hay River and receive dialysis and then a couple of weeks up in Yellowknife. There is an alternating schedule so people at least get to see their friends and family every once in a while. Are there any situations like that that the Minister has contemplated moving forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We are open to any scenario, any options that exist to ensure that our residents are getting the best care they can as close to home as possible. Every situation is different. Every individual is unique. There are individuals who are on dialysis who are receiving a different degree of treatment than others. In some cases, providing treatment in Hay River and then in Yellowknife and then somewhere else may or may not be appropriate. In short, we are always looking for options. Every case is unique. There is no one policy that is going to fit all for all patients. We need to be open to options. Mr. Speaker, we are. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 318-18(3):
ADDICTIONS AFTERCARE AND DETOX
PROGRAMS

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke of a constituent of mine who undertook a tremendous amount of grassroots advocacy for local options for addictions treatment in the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he can speak to the aftercare programs that the government is currently operating and in the process of reviewing. He has spoken about it on the floor in the House before, if he can give this House an update. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't reviewed Hansard, but I am pretty sure, if we go back, I indicated at that time that I don't think we are necessarily doing everything we can or even enough for aftercare. I travelled with members of the Social Envelope Committee to different treatment facilities around the Northwest Territories. We heard loud and clear that we need to do more.

To that end, we are currently working on an addictions recovery action plan. The committee has made a number of solid recommendations. I am going to be responding to those recommendations on June 1st. In short, we are agreeing with the

recommendations and are happy to move forward with committee to find some ways to improve the services we are providing for aftercare throughout the Northwest Territories.

Currently, when somebody is coming back from a treatment facility, they are required to have an aftercare plan in their community, in their region, where possible. Clearly, there are gaps that we need to close. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: Thank you to the Minister for providing that update. I know there was a lot of work that has been undertaken by both the standing committee and the Minister. I would like to ask about another issue that was raised by my constituent, which is the availability of detox services in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister speak to those programs?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: There are different types of detox. We do have a withdrawal management program. When it comes to a medical detox, we can provide those services today in different hospitals in the Northwest Territories. We provide medical detox in Stanton, and we provide medical detox within the hospital in Hay River.

The four facilities that we are contracted with for southern placement actually have access either on-site to medical and social detox, or they are contracted with another facility in their communities for social and medical detox. All of our facilities have it. We have medical detox here in the Northwest Territories.

When it comes to social detox, there are many different ways that this can be done. In some cases, it is working with Indigenous governments and taking advantage of on-the-land programs that exist that help people get away from their communities, get out on the land, have an opportunity to detach from the community setting and connect with the cultural setting.

There are many different ways that we can do both types of detox. This is an area that I think we need to also find better approaches to enhance what we are doing to be better at what we are doing. This will be included within the addictions recovery action plan.

MR. TESTART: There are, of course, a lot of discussion around a bricks-and-mortar facility. I know that, at this time, that is not really in the cards. That is what we have heard loud and clear. There is good evidence to support that. We are looking at the former Stanton Hospital site. Are there going to be any additional detox or aftercare programs operated through that lease once the new hospital opens?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In the new hospital, as in the current hospital and Hay River, we don't dedicate beds for detox, but we have beds available for detox. If somebody needs detox services, medical detox, we have the ability to facilitate that in our facilities. With Stanton, we are going to have additional beds, so that will become easier, not more difficult.

Having said that, there are also no plans to put any detox beds in the old Stanton building. The old Stanton building is completely spoken for when it comes to things like extended care, long-term care, TO/PT, other outpatient services, as well as the Frame Lake Clinic which is going to be in that building. Plus, we also need kitchens and whatnot to provide services to extended care and long-term care. So, no plans to put anything in the old hospital.

Having said that, we have been working with the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation, who wants to put an Indigenous or Aboriginal wellness centre on that property. We are very supportive of this. We are working closely with them to find a way to make this a reality. They are intending to provide services to residents from the Northwest Territories that will help people be better prepared to take advantage of some of the addictions programs that we have here in the Northwest Territories. That's a great partnership. I look forward to continuing to make progress on that, and I look forward to seeing that constructed on the Stanton campus.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, third-party partners are key to successfully resolving these issues, especially working with Indigenous people, so I commend the Minister for bringing that forward.

I am mindful of an answer he gave to my honourable friend from Hay River North that you need a business case to support additional spending. Given that addictions treatment and these aftercare programs are gaps that have been identified and will require a significant amount of resources to plug those gaps, is the Minister going to bring forward a costed proposal or a business case that will see more financial resources dedicated to addictions treatment in the Northwest Territories within the next cycle of business planning? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: It is a little premature for me to say for sure. I anticipate there will be some requirements for some additional resources, but I am not prepared to say how much we think that is at this point.

As I have said when asked this question in other areas, Mr. Speaker, we spend an awful lot of money in the Government of the Northwest Territories and an awful lot of money in Health and Social Services. Before we can ask for more, we need to make sure that we are spending the money right and that we are getting maximum benefit and maximum dollar for every dollar that we spend.

We do invest a lot in additions. We need to make sure we are getting that right. It may require some re-profiling of how we spend to get maximum benefit. If we do that and still find that we need money, I am prepared to go to FMBS to make that request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 319-18(3):
GNWT ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. In my Member's statement, I referred to an unprecedented letter sent by the regional superintendent of Infrastructure to the Minister of Lands on April 30th that attempts to override the recommendations of the review board in an almost two-year-long environmental assessment of the Tlicho all-season road.

My questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure as the proponent for this project. Did the Minister know about this April 30th letter, and why was it sent when there was supposed to be some kind of a firewall set up? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to clarify something. I think the Member said that I sent the letter. I didn't send the letter; the regional superintendent sent the letter on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure. This was done as a formal correspondence on this file. It was a required course of business through the environmental process, and the letter was sent respecting the firewall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I think the Minister is a little bit confused here, because I am talking about an April 30th letter that his own regional superintendent sent to the Minister of Lands saying that, if the recommendations from the review board were accepted, they might not have a project. I see that as a way of interfering with the review board's work.

Can the Minister tell me whether he was aware of his regional superintendent's letter of April 30th and why it was sent when there is supposed to be some kind of a firewall set up?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Let me clarify something here. I said that the letter was sent respecting the firewall, and it was on behalf of the department through our North Slave regional superintendent. We believe all protocols were followed with respect to the environmental assessment. The only thing that I am aware of is that I had a discussion with my deputy about the environmental assessment, about the buffer size. Besides that, I didn't know much more about the environmental assessment process, and the department is handling that with respect to how the process is set up.

MR. O'REILLY: I want to thank the Minister for that. I am going to be tabling these letters later today, but that letter from his regional superintendent makes no mention of the firewall. In fact, it seems to be in breach of this apparent firewall that was set up.

I want to move on to the review board. They criticized this so-called "whole of government" approach that is required by Cabinet's Project Assessment Policy because it limits the availability of evidence and expertise and does not serve the public interest.

Does the Minister accept that criticism, and will the Minister work to change the Project Assessment Policy to allow for the full participation of all government departments and their staff?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: One other thing I want to clarify around this letter is that it is posted on the web site. It is a clear, open document. It is available for everybody to read. As far as the Project Assessment Policy goes, that is the Department of Lands' responsibility. It is not my responsibility, and I am not aware of any criticism around the environmental assessment towards our department. I can look into that, but I am not aware of any criticism towards us, and I am going to remind all Members that Lands is the lead on the policy.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for that. I am a bit surprised that he is not a little bit more on top of this as the lead Minister for the project, especially after I gave him a heads-up about what I was going to talk about today.

In my Member's statement, I raised this April 30th letter, and I believe it casts a long and dark shadow of interference with procedural fairness and legal uncertainty over any decision on the Tlicho all-season road, the GNWT's role in future EAs, and protection of the threatened boreal caribou. What

lessons, if any, have the Minister and his Cabinet colleagues taken away from all of this? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I want to comment that I know what is going on with this file. We know what is going on. I am staying away from the firewall side of things. I don't need to be involved in that. That is Lands' role. We are the proponent. We are proposing the road. We are going through the environmental process. The environmental process allows us, as the proponent, to ask questions, and that is what we are doing. That question has been posted on the web site.

This Cabinet is committed to a fair and open and comprehensive process. We believe that has been followed through the environmental process that is laid out before us, and that is what we will continue to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 320-18(3):
SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS
FOR HOMELESS RESIDENTS

MR. BEAULIEU: Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I talked about a project that was being performed by the homeless people of Yellowknife. I have questions for the Minister of Homelessness. Leading up to the launch of this new program, was the Minister of Homelessness ever approached by the city to get funding for this project, and if so, what was the answer? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for Addressing Homelessness.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, there were no requests for funding from the City of Yellowknife. We couldn't even give an answer, because there were no requests for this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: I am hoping that the government was aware of the project. I was wondering if the government would consider, or this Minister of Homelessness would consider, funding similar types of programs in all of the other communities across the territory where homeless people are looking for some form of employment.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Across all departments, we have certain programs. We are willing to work with NGOs, communities, and I think the City of Yellowknife has a really great program that can model to other communities across the Northwest Territories that are dealing with homelessness. I encourage other communities to speak with other

departments, such as ECE. I can mediate those kinds of discussions as Minister of Homelessness.

I encourage communities to look at the model that the City of Yellowknife has done and try something in their municipalities. I think it is a really great story throughout the Northwest Territories, and Yellowknife should be very proud of what they have initiated here.

MR. BEAULIEU: Using this model as the Minister indicated, would the Minister of Homelessness reach out to other non-government organizations, or even the Indigenous governments in the communities, to run a similar type of initiative in other areas or in other communities?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I have just mentioned in my previous response, I would be willing to mediate that as Minister of Homelessness. We have had some great programs in the past. Inuvik Works did something very similar working on seniors' homes, community projects done in the community. I think that is something we can look at and get developed in some of our regional centres, and even small communities. Working with either ECE, also through NWT Housing Corporation, we do have a small community homelessness fund which provides funding for community proponents to deliver homelessness programs and supports for their own design. That's one option as well. We are willing to work with non-government organizations, municipalities, community governments, Indigenous governments, to look at how we address homelessness, but also develop training, skill development, life skills for people who really need that. We want to be there to support all departments here in this government.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister answered my upcoming question, so I would just like to change it up a bit. I would like to ask the Minister if the Minister can work with other departments, but mainly with the Housing Corporation, of which he's also the Minister, of course, to determine what level of homelessness, whether it would be absolute homelessness where individuals are living on the streets, or relative homelessness where individuals are couch surfing and living in unwelcome environments across the territory, across all the communities? I would like to ask the Minister if he is prepared to make a commitment using Housing Corporation staff to determine how many people fit into those two homelessness categories across the territory?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As Members know, we have created a homelessness coordinator position

in the previous government. To find out the exact number of homeless people we have in the territory would be tough, because we do have a lot of people who also do couch surfing. I will commit that we will try to address the issue; look at the model that the City of Yellowknife has done with this program. It is a great program, and I applaud the City of Yellowknife for taking that on and working with the NWT Housing Corporation and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We will look at continuing to support these types of programs. Finding out the exact number of people who are homeless in the territory will be tough, as I mentioned, because we do have a lot of people who do couch surf who wouldn't be identified, and we just need to work together with our NGO's, our Indigenous governments, and across departments to address the issue. I am glad the Member has brought this up today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 321-18(3):
DEMPSTER HIGHWAY BRUSH CLEARING

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a couple of questions for the Minister of Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, the department is doing a great job brush cutting on the sides of the highway. As I mentioned, they completed about 10 to 15 kilometres from Tsiigehtchic toward Inuvik, also all the blind spots from the Peel Ferry right to Inuvik, actually, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister: when will the department be doing more brushing along the highway to complete the whole Dempster? Hopefully, we get that far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Infrastructure.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking back in my notes, we have done a significant amount of brushing over the last few years through the Building Canada Innovation Program money, through the provincial-territorial infrastructure component of our allocation. We are continuing to forecast brushing for this fiscal year of kilometres 161 to 168, and in the future 2020, we are looking at 168 to 175. What I can also say on that is, we also have the new bundle three approved for the new Building Canada plan, and we are looking at spending another \$22.5 million on the Dempster. I suspect, going through our reviews of conducting surveys or what needs to be done going forward, to determine what needs to be done, brushing will be continued going forward.

MR. BLAKE: That is great news. As I mentioned earlier, we do have brushing that has been done from the Peel River to Tsiigehtchic, but my

constituents would like to see the whole highway completed, not only the blind spots, which makes a great difference, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, I thank the department for starting with the blind spots, but my constituents would like to see the whole highway brush cut along that stretch.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: As I have stated, I know the two sections going forward between now and 2020, with Bundle 3 approved now, we will have to have a look at, as I say, conducting the surveys with our crews going forward, and I suspect, I've been up there. I've lived in that region. I know what the willows are like on the side of the highway, and I'm almost certain that brush cutting is going to be part of our reconstruction going forward until the end of 2024 until our fiscal funding runs out with the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

QUESTION 322-18(3):
TUKTOYAKTUK SHORELINE RELOCATION
PROJECT

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am following up on the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs' statement earlier on the Tuktoyaktuk shoreline relocation project. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister please go more into detail on the Tuktoyaktuk shoreline relocation? Mr. Speaker, my question is: can the Minister provide additional status on the work to address longstanding shoreline erosion challenges in Tuktoyaktuk in the short and long term? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA did receive \$250,000 through the Federal National Disaster Mitigation Program to complete a disaster mitigation plan for the community of Tuktoyaktuk. This effort was combined with a similar project involving the community of Aklavik. A request for proposal is complete, and a contractor will begin work with the hamlet this spring. The first stage of this project includes community consultations and finalizing a detailed work plan. This project is expected to be complete in the winter of 2018, and the plan will identify various adaptation measures that can be implemented to address the climate change issues that are impacting the community, including the shoreline erosion.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. My second question: is there any work that can be completed while the community is waiting for this mitigation plan to be completed?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. In early 2018, MACA did some work with ENR to obtain \$800,000 through the federal Climate Change Preparedness Program. The goal is to implement adaptation measures identified through the mitigation plan to work in the community of Tuktoyaktuk, including relocation of private homes from areas most affected by the erosion.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response from the Minister and the updates. Mr. Speaker, my third question is: what is the status of the relocation project, and will the work be completed during this Assembly?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The department did meet with the Tuktoyaktuk Hamlet Council in April to start the project and to develop a project plan. Hamlet Council met with private homeowners to explain the projects, and ultimately, eligible homeowners will need to decide if they want to be part of that relocation plan as well.

Structural assessments on homes, as well as geotechnical investigations on the new lots, will be completed this summer, as well as fall of this year. Obtaining gravel, lot development, and the movement of houses will be scheduled based on the ideal time to get this work completed. We are hoping that will get done during this Legislative Assembly.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, earlier in the statement, there were eight other communities mentioned with hazards related to climate change. Mr. Speaker, Sachs Harbour should be added to the list, as the infrastructure in the community is affected by erosion. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister is: will funding be available in the future to complete additional mitigation work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Currently, the Government of Canada has made disaster mitigation funding available for five years only. However, there remains great interest among the provinces and territories to continue extend it beyond that period. For the community of Sachs Harbour, we are willing to sit down and talk to the hamlet, as well as the leadership, to look at future projects in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last winter the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs offered two campaign schools for women. During our last session, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women said the move was temporary, but according to the mandate letter provided to her at the end of April, she will "collaborate with the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs and MACA to support delivery of the workshops." On what basis is the Minister making this change? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Status of Women Council actually was doing campaign schools within the communities for a couple of years. I am not sure how long, in all honesty, but we found that they were only working at getting women into the Legislative Assembly. Not that we don't need to get women into the Assembly, but we do need to branch out into other directions; so we looked at their model, and we looked at designing it to meet better needs.

We took it internally in the short term to be able to address the issues, such as getting more women into municipal or Aboriginal governments or school boards, et cetera, because we recognized very quickly that we needed to expand it; that a lot of women, because of various reasons, childcare being one of them, not wanting to travel, leaving their children, was a huge detriment to actually putting their name forward here. In the last campaign that we did, women were talking about a support group. We are looking at that, too, and trying to figure out how we can do it online.

This is not meant to be a long-term solution. I don't have the resources. We don't know if there will be any women elected next time, and it would be inappropriate, then, to do it. I think what we are looking at is just developing a strong campaign school that will reach all of the areas of politics, that will address all of the issues that women want, and when that is done, at that point, then we will look at turning it over to whoever is the best candidate for that, not saying who that may be at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: The Status of Women Council has been running the campaign schools since their inception, and the campaign schools have always included women who are interested in elected positions in their communities, not only in the territorial government. I don't understand why this is a driving factor to yank this program away from the Status of Women Council. Can the Minister tell me why they can't be in charge of redeveloping the curriculum?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I am hoping that the Status of Women Council actually will, and I do know that they are trying to do some issues, working with women in getting them into leadership as well.

When I was first elected in this position, my budget wasn't as generous as it is now, although I am not saying it is that generous, but the Status of Women Council put forward a proposal, and they asked for \$15,000 just to do one workshop. I believe, at that point, I may be wrong, I think my budget was only \$20,000 to do two, which meant I was in a deficit. We had to look at it and see if there was a more cost-effective way.

We are looking at just the development. At that time, like I say, there may have been other women who were interested in going into other leadership roles, other government bodies, but the campaign school, through the Status of Women Council, focused on women in the Legislative Assembly, and we need to branch that out to address Aboriginal governments, municipal governments, and school boards. If the Status of Women Council can do that within the close to half a million dollars that I fund them already, I would be more than happy to allow them to do that work.

MS. GREEN: The Status of Women Council is not being given this opportunity. The campaign schools have been arbitrarily taken into the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, and we have been given various reasons. They are overspending, and they are not capable of reaching women who are not in the territorial government campaigns. In fact, the Minister has had the campaign schools evaluated at least once and possibly twice. I have never seen any evidence of this evaluation. Is she now ready to share it?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The first time we tried to do an evaluation was in the Inuvik campaign school, and that time, it was actually just another woman in another department who was willing to do that work. Sad to say, that woman was an affected employee, and that kind of stopped the work before it was done.

We did have a draft, though, and I do apologize to the MLA from Yellowknife Centre. I thought I had shared that with her in confidence, and if I haven't, then I am more than willing. If she would let me know, then I will share that draft in confidence with her, because it never got finished, but I apologize because I did think I had shared that.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen the evaluation that was

completed last year. There was also supposed to be an evaluation of the winter campaign schools. I haven't seen that either.

I want to point the Minister towards a huge and obvious conflict of interest arising from the fact that she is having the public service train the politicians of the future. Mr. Speaker, this is not the job of government. It is the job of an arm's-length agency, and we have one with experience in this area: the Status of Women Council. Can the Minister explain to us why she thinks it is proper for the government to take on this function? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I should clarify that at no point during the campaign schools do we tell people, "This is what you need to do when you become a politician." That isn't the purpose of it. It is actually just to give them the tools to be able to campaign, to give them the tools so that they can actually build the confidence that they need to get in there. Once they get into those governments, then those are their own choices to make on where they want to go with that.

Why is it good to have it internally at this point? Because we have the resources internally. We have the electoral. We have Municipal and Community Affairs that does Aboriginal government training, that does community government training. It was just logical to be able to use those resources.

For the online support that they are asking now, I believe that we did reach out to the Status of Women Council and asked if they would consider doing some of that support. At this point, they are looking at developing their own strategic plan.

I am willing to work with anyone who wants to move this forward, but again, I have very limited resources. It is not about giving out money; it is about getting women into leadership. I have not said that we are not going back. I have not said who is doing it. I am saying that we are still developing it and that we want a solid campaign school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 12, petitions. Member for Kam Lake.

Petitions

PETITION 2-18(3): ADDICTIONS TREATMENT CENTRE

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition supporting the matter of addictions treatment. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 287 handwritten signatures and 33

electronic signatures of Northwest Territories residents. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories create a local addictions treatment centre in Yellowknife, creating easily accessible vital care and support locally. This would be a great asset to our community and the surrounding communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Petitions. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 193-18(3):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 2,
2018-2019

TABLED DOCUMENT 194-18(3):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (OPERATION
EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2018-2019

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019;" and "Supplementary Estimates (Operation Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 195-18(3):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MANUFACTURING
STRATEGY: WHAT WE HEARD REPORT,
SUMMARY OF NOTES AND FINDINGS,
JANUARY 2018

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Northwest Territories Manufacturing Strategy: What We Heard, January 2018." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Frame Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 196-18(3):
LETTER DATED APRIL 10, 2018 FROM ADM
PLANNING AND COORDINATION,
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, TO THE MACKENZIE
VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW
BOARD REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DECISION-
MAKING STRUCTURE FOR THE TLICHO ALL-
SEASON ROAD PROJECT

TABLED DOCUMENT 197-18(3):
LETTER DATED APRIL 30, 2018 FROM
REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, NORTH SLAVE

REGION, DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE,
TO MINISTER OF LANDS REGARDING
MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REVIEW BOARD'S REPORT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
REASONS FOR DECISION, GNWT TLICHO ALL
SEASON ROAD PROJECT, EA 1617-01, MARCH
29, 2018

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I have two documents I would like to table today. The first is a letter dated April 10th from the assistant deputy minister, Planning and Coordination, Department of Lands, to the executive director of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. The second document I have, Mr. Chair, is a letter from the regional superintendent, North Slave Region, Department of Infrastructure, to the Honourable Lou Sebert, Minister of Lands. It is dated April 30, 2018, regarding the Tlicho all-season road. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, Notices of Motion. Member for Kam Lake.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 17-18(3):
REVIEW OF INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK
HIGHWAY PROJECT

MR. TESTART: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, May 31, 2018, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the 18th Legislative Assembly requests that the Auditor General of Canada undertake a special audit of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway project and report thereon to the Legislative Assembly; and further, that the Auditor General assess project control, administration, and the long-term implications of related financial agreements; value for money; reporting; and adherence to standards for contracting and procurement;

And furthermore, that the Auditor General investigate and consider any other factors that, in his opinion, are relevant;

And furthermore, that all employees and officials cooperate fully with the Auditor General in providing all appropriate documents, papers, and information;

And furthermore, that the GNWT inform all relevant contractors of the nature and purpose of the special audit;

And furthermore, that the Auditor General be requested to complete the audit as soon as practicable and provide a report to the Legislative Assembly;

And furthermore, that the Speaker formally transmit this motion and the contents of our proceedings today to the Auditor General for his consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MOTION 18-18(3):
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE NWT
HONOURS ADVISORY COUNCIL

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, May 31, 2018, I will move the following motion: now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that the following persons be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for their reappointment to the Northwest Territories Honours Advisory Council, effective immediately for a term of three years:

Ms. Sabrina Broadhead of Hay River;

Mr. Danny Gaudet of Deline; and

Ms. Anne Peters of Yellowknife.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of Motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 20:
OMBUDSPERSON ACT

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, May 31, 2018, I will move that Bill 20, Ombudsperson Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

BILL 21:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
INVESTMENT CORPORATION ACT

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, May 31, 2018, I will move that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Development Investment Corporation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, Motions. Member for Yellowknife North.

Motions

MOTION 16-18(3):
SMOKING IN VEHICLES WITH MINORS
PRESENT,
CARRIED

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion is entitled "Smoking in Vehicles with Minors Present."

WHEREAS tobacco smoke contains more than 50 compounds that are known carcinogens;

AND WHEREAS second-hand tobacco smoke is a definitive cause of cancer in humans;

AND WHEREAS, in 2012, 34 per cent of the NWT population aged 15 and over were smokers, compared to 21 per cent in Canada;

AND WHEREAS cancer is the leading cause of death in the Northwest Territories, accounting for approximately one in four deaths each year;

AND WHEREAS the impacts of cancer on families, communities, and the healthcare system are extremely high;

AND WHEREAS health research shows that children are more vulnerable to adverse health effects from second-hand smoke exposure;

AND WHEREAS children and teenagers typically have less control over their environment than adults;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Cancer Society supports and promotes cancer prevention, and proposes that all provinces and territories enact legislation to protect children and minors from second-hand smoke in vehicles;

AND WHEREAS eight other Canadian provinces and territories have enacted legislation against smoking in vehicles when minors are present;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories Cancer Prevention Strategy 2015-2025 includes cancer prevention initiatives for children and youth;

AND WHEREAS the Community Wellness and Safety section of the revised Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories 2016-2019 includes several commitments for cancer prevention, including "developing and proposing updated tobacco control legislation";

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that the 18th Legislative Assembly recommend that the Tobacco Control Act be amended to include a prohibition on smoking in a vehicle when a minor is present;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories respond to this motion within 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the motion. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. I spoke earlier today in my Member's statement about a number of the health implications that smoking in a vehicle would have while minors are in the vehicle. I want to share just a little bit more about different information that I have been able to collect through our research department that I think is important to share today. Hopefully, it helps garner support for today's motion.

Legal bans against smoking in vehicles when minors are present, Mr. Speaker, it is not new. This is common in Canada. There are at least eight provinces and territories that have such provisions in their legislation. Mr. Speaker, it is fairly straightforward. In some instances, for example in Alberta, their legislation as it relates to the Alberta Tobacco and Smoking Reduction has a simple statement that simply says, "Subject to section 5, no person shall smoke... in a vehicle in which a minor is present." It can be that simple.

Mr. Speaker, there is also some detail that has been provided with regard to various fines for offences. I won't get into that kind of detail here and now. I think that will be up to the government to potentially take consideration of.

In the NWT, smoking prohibition falls under the Tobacco Control Act. Part 3 of this act pertains to the protection against environmental tobacco smoke. This part prohibits smoking in a public place, which is quite broadly defined. Also, smoking in public transit and commercial vehicles is also prohibited.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize also that enforcement is an issue that some people might have concern with, but it is not easy, of course, to enforce such a law. These are the kinds of things similar to that of not using handheld devices and seatbelts that, with education and enforcement, over time these become effective ways of shaping the public's norms and producing the desired behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, I will not get much more into the health implications. I kind of described some of that in my Member's statement today. I just do want to say that there is a lot of public support for this type of law, and, besides the provinces and territories mentioned, there are numerous communities in Canada that have adopted bylaws to prohibit smoking in vehicles with minors present. The movement to adopt similar legislation is international in scope, by the way. Other

jurisdictions that ban smoking in vehicles with minors present include Maine, California, Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, and so on. In 2008, a poll by the Canadian Cancer Society found that 82 per cent of Canadians supported a ban on smoking in cars carrying children, and that 69 per cent of smokers supported such a ban. That's smokers, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of jurisdictions across Canada that have implemented this, and I will be happy to share the background information and research that we have done on that with the respective department. So that is all that I have at this point. I look forward to hearing from other Members and hope for their support at the end of our proceeding. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the mover, my colleague Mr. Vanthuyne, for leading this initiative. I believe in this legislation that will ban smoking in vehicles with minors. You know, the motion, the intended spirit and purpose of the motion is to protect the well-being and health of children, and that is what the motion tries to set forth. This government in the past has put in place legislation on banning handheld devices in vehicles and also seatbelt laws, so, similarly, this is another step that this government could take forward in ensuring that children don't experience the effects of second-hand smoke, especially cigarettes, in vehicles. For those reasons, I support this motion. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to thank the MLA for Yellowknife North for bringing forward this motion. I strongly support it. This issue about smoking in vehicles while children are present, that is something that was raised when I was Yellowknife city council, and we finally took steps to restrict and eventually ban smoking in public places, but it was something that we couldn't address ourselves. I know this from first-hand. My parents smoked in the vehicle when I was there. They just did not know any better. Eventually we got them to quit, though, and I am thankful for that. So I once again want to thank the Member for bringing this forward.

I would urge him, though, to consider bringing this forward as a private Member's bill. I think it's a perfect opportunity to do this, and, having done it myself with regard to cremation services, I would be more than happy to work with the Member to achieve that. The reason why I say that is it's going to take 120 days for the government to respond,

and that does not really leave a lot of time for a bill moving forward. I strongly support this initiative and want to thank again the MLA for Yellowknife North in bringing it forward. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the mover and seconder of the motion. Cabinet is aware of the research of public health risks associated with smoking tobacco and second-hand smoke exposure, particularly for children and youth in enclosed spaces such as vehicles. Smoking in enclosed spaces leads to, and in many cases worsens, respiratory conditions, in addition to having long-term adverse health consequences. We also recognize that the Northwest Territories is just one of two jurisdictions in Canada that does not prohibit the smoking of tobacco in vehicles with young persons present. To that end, Cabinet is looking to include in the legislative proposal that will modernize the Tobacco Act on this particular issue. We are committed to amending the Tobacco Control Act in the life of this Assembly. We are currently working on the development of a legislative proposal. We hope to have that done and forwarded to committee. So I thank the Member for raising the motion. Given that this is direction that this Cabinet is already intending to take, Cabinet will be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. I will allow the mover to make concluding remarks on the motion. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful for everybody's words of encouragement, and really appreciate the Minister of Health's comments and the support that all colleagues in the House today are going to seemingly provide. So I do not think that at this point I really have that much more to add, other than to say that it is time that we ban smoking in vehicles with minors in them. I will request at this time, as well, a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Member has requested for a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (MR. MERCER): The Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Deh Cho, the Member for Nunakput, 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, the Member for Hay River North, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Sahtu.

MR. SPEAKER: Good job, Mr. Clerk. All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote on the motion: 18 in favour; zero opposed; zero abstentions. Motion carried.

---Carried

Motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 19:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE REVOLVING FUNDS ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 19 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 13:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SECURITIES ACT

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Securities Act, be read for the second time. This bill amends the Securities Act to:

- allow for automatic reciprocation in the Northwest Territories of orders of extra-territorial securities regulatory authorities designating an issuer to be or cease to be a reporting issuer;
- allow for automatic reciprocation in the Northwest Territories of a variety of other

prescribed orders issued by, or agreements entered into with, extra-territorial securities regulatory authorities without the necessity of drafting and issuing a further order in the Northwest Territories;

- alter the requirements for disclosure documents to be provided to purchasers of exchange-traded funds to allow issuers to provide more accessible format to purchasers in lieu of a full prospectus;
- temporarily suspend the limitation period for plaintiffs in secondary market civil liability actions where the application to the court for leave to file an action has been made; and
- correct inconsistencies and errors identified in the statute.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 13 has had its second reading and is now referred to standing committee. Second reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

BILL 14:
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT
ACT, 2018

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 14, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018, be read for the second time. This bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in the statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill also deals with other matters of a minor, non-controversial, and uncomplicated nature in the statutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Bill 14 has had a second reading and is now referred to standing committee. Second reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

BILL 15:
DOCUMENT FORMALIZATION, SERVICE AND
NOTICE REFORM STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT
ACT

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 15, Document Formalization, Service and Notice Reform Statute Law Amendment Act, be read for the second time. This bill amends 34 statutes of the Northwest Territories to improve access to justice for residents of the Northwest Territories by:

- providing practical and straightforward options for the service of documents, including alternatives to the use of mail;
- updating and simplifying the processes to give notice to individuals and the public at large;
- eliminating unnecessary formalities, such as requiring documents to be supported by affidavits or otherwise witnessed; and
- increasing effectiveness, reducing delay and inconvenience, and lowering costs for the government and the public.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Bill 15 has had a second reading and is now referred to standing committee. Second reading of bills. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

BILL 16:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
ACT

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, be read for the second time. The bill amends the Social Assistance Act to extend the term of appeal board members from two years to up to four years and to extend the list of public bodies with which information shared under the act may be shared to include Indigenous governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Bill 16 has had a second reading and is now referred to standing committee. Second reading of bills. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

BILL 17:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the second time. The bill amends the Student Financial Assistance Act to extend the term of appeal board members from two years to up to four years and to amend the qualifications for the post-secondary student representative on the appeal board to include individuals who have been a post-secondary student within the five years preceding the appointment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Bill 17 has had a second reading and is now referred to a standing committee. Second reading of bills. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

BILL 18:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACT

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, be read for the second time. This bill amends the Cities, Towns and Villages Act to authorize councils:

- to impose a tax on tourist accommodations; and
- to pass bylaws allowing property owners to finance, through local improvement charges, local improvements that are substantively energy efficiency works or renewable energy works.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of the principle of this bill. It has been a long time coming. Members have advocated for these necessary changes that are long overdue. They have been advocated by the Cities, Towns and Villages Act for some years now, and I am very pleased to see the government bring this forward.

It is essential that we give our cities, towns, and villages the tools that they need to effectively maintain their operations and to take advantage of economic opportunities like tourism. In my community of Yellowknife, the need for a hotel levy has been long canvassed, and it is supported by the city council. I like to think that we have a very good working relationship with our local government here in the city. I am very pleased to see the government bring these changes forward so that we can start to get to work on it as a standing committee.

As chair of the committee that will be reviewing the bill, I also look forward to engaging with stakeholders in our cities, towns, and villages to make sure that this bill meets their needs and that we do our due diligence as a committee to ensure it is the best legislation possible, and we will get to that within the coming weeks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Bill 18 has had its second reading and is now referred to a standing committee. Second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 6, Cannabis Legalization and Regulations Implementation Act; 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 193-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019; Tabled Document 194-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2018- 2019; and Committee Report 7-18(3), Standing Committee on the Review of Bill 6: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act.

By the authority given to me as speaker by Motion 7-18(3), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the

business before the House, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I now 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 Tabled Document 193-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019; and Tabled Document 194-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019. 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 tabled documents after a five-minute recess. Committee, please return to the Chamber at 5:15 p.m. on the dot. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I have called Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 193-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 2, 2018-2019. Does the Minister of Finance have any opening remarks? Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am here to present Tabled Document 193-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019. This document provides for an increase of \$159 million to the capital budget.

The major items in these supplementary estimates include:

- \$136 million to continue capital projects which were not able to be completed in 2017-2018. This amount is offset by an equivalent lapse of funding for 2017-2018.
- \$22.3 million to fund infrastructure investments associated with the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan Integrated Bilateral Agreement. These expenditures will be partially offset by funding from the federal government.
- \$703,000 to replace airfield runway lighting at the Fort Smith airport. These expenditures are

fully funded by the federal government.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chair. I am prepared to respond to the committee's questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to my right I have Mr. David Stewart, who is deputy minister in the Department of Finance. To my left, I have Sandy Kalgutkar, who is the deputy secretary to the FMB. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. I will open the floor up to general comments for the Infrastructure, Supplementary Estimates, keeping in mind that we will go through the document page by page. Do we have general comments on the tabled document? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this supplementary estimate represents a very large carry-over compared to previous years. This is money that could have been spent in our economy, but instead is being carried over. It seems to be the result of several factors; one is the large amount of money that's coming in to the territory from the federal government. Also, there seems to be a lack of capacity in the Department of Infrastructure to get contracts out the door. Also, miscellaneous issues with subcontractors. When the time comes for questions, I will ask the Minister to talk about the size of this carry-over, and how it can be reduced in years coming forward. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. If you have general questions for the Minister, you can ask those now, or you can wait until the appropriate sections. Would you like to continue, Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: I will continue. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister explain to us why the carry-over is so high this year? Let's start with that.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it was a fairly significant influx of federal money, and some large capital projects we had on our own. That is the reason for the carry-overs, and as we go through the details, I think you'll have a pretty good indication of where a lot of this money was supposed to have been spent. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. Given the fact that the federal money is going to be coming in for years to come, how is the Minister going to reduce the carry-over in years ahead? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Well, ideally, we would like to try and get the contracts out as soon as possible. That's one of the reasons we changed the capital estimate process that we go through to October, so we are in a position to get contracts out. If we feel that there is a capacity issue, then, we will have to take steps to address that, but I think that the department is working quite hard at trying to roll out the projects with the folks we have and the amount of dollars that are coming into the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I didn't hear in that answer how things would be different in the next fiscal year than they are now. Given the fact that there is no increase in capacity, and no decrease in funding, what's going to make the difference to get the contracts out sooner? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I think some of the projects are quite big. I'll use Stanton, for example, and the money that we are investing in there. Some of those should come off the books as they are completed, so I would anticipate that we will not coming forward next year with such a large carry-over budget. Then again, we work on getting these contracts let and out the door. That should reduce the carry-over from this year to next. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I still don't hear a definitive answer there on how this is going to be reduced. I think we all understand what the problem is, but we don't have a grip on the solution. If it isn't one big project like Stanton, it's going to be another big project like the Tlicho road. Is there a way to break down the contract amounts into smaller projects as a means to move forward with more money going out the door? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, where there is an opportunity and it makes sense, and we still get a good product at the end of the day, I suppose it's something we could look at, but we have to ensure that we get quality product if we break it down. I think I have said a couple of times before that we work on getting these contracts out the door as quickly as possible or as soon as the appropriation is approved. Then we should see a reduction in the carry-over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: [Microphone turned off]

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I would remind everyone to keep an eye on the red light to ensure that it is on while you are speaking. There was nothing further from Ms. Green for general comments. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just going to go back to clarification here. The business plans start in October. We approve them, and so we are having delays getting these contracts out in a timely manner. Has the department looked at even moving that process even earlier so that we can get these contracts out as of April 1st? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, our business planning starts in September for the operations budget. Capital plans is the one we debate in the October session, and it used to be a little later. At least that's my understanding while I was part of this Assembly, when we'd debate the capital budget a little later than that. Then we heard some concerns about the ability to get the projects contracted, out the door, material ordered, while we still have a winter road, so that is one of the reasons we changed the approval process to October. I think, for the most part, it has worked fairly well. Again, there has been a huge influx of money, so we are trying to deal with it, and I am not sure if moving it earlier would speed it up. We approve the capital estimates in October, and I think they have until April 1st, is when the money starts being appropriated, so that gives them time to have contracts in place. We just have to ensure that we work with all departments to make sure that the contracts are let and out the door, taking advantage of the time change in the debate on the capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that. That clears things up a little bit better. I guess my question, though, is: because we have seen this huge number of a carry-over, do you guys track the reasons why we have these carry-overs? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do track why some of the projects are carried over, and there were a number of reasons that that could be. I think I shared some of those in our briefing with committee. However, I believe we shared all of the briefing information with committee as to why most of these projects were carried over. If not, I will go back and have a conversation with my department and we will share the proper information with committee, but I think we have shared a great deal of information as to why many of these contracts or why many of these projects were carried over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, and I thank the Minister for that commitment and the information, I guess. I guess the question I have is: have we learned anything? I guess maybe it's just because of the huge influx of money from the federal government, but do you come up with best practices of how to improve the process? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we do learn from year to year on why projects are delayed and if there is an opportunity for us to get everything finalized, get the contracts out the door, have them awarded, have the contractors ordering their material or whatever they need to do to be ready for when the money starts being appropriated in April. It's a learning process. Again, we try to get as many of these projects out the door as quickly as possible, but, with anything we do within the government, it's a learning process, and we try to go with best practices and see what works well so that we are not in a position where we are having such large carry-overs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Thompson. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I, too, am concerned about the large amount of carry-over. I

guess I wonder how much of that is due to reduced capacity within the Department of Infrastructure. This is a department that was a creation of amalgamating Public Works and Services and the Department of Transportation. It was one of three departments to actually take a cut last year in its O and M budget. I went back and tried to refresh my memory here about how many positions were lost during that amalgamation, and it looks like it was about 45, at least, on 580 when you combine the two departments, so that, to me, I just wonder about whether those cuts have affected the ability to get the money out the door, manage these projects more efficiently. So I want to ask the Minister if he could provide us with some information, then, about the capacity of the Department of Infrastructure. If he can't give the information here, I would like to get a commitment to provide it, about how many, what the budget and staffing in the procurement function within Infrastructure, how that has gone over the last two or three years with the cuts that have been made. I would like to get the commitment to get that information out of the Minister. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, if you go back a few years, last year, I believe we had \$126 million in carry-overs; 2016-2017, we had about \$137 million in carry-overs; 2015-2016, we had \$6 million in carry-overs. As far as the lack of capacity of the department, I believe the department has capacity. I can't speak on behalf of the Minister. If they feel that they are challenged for capacity in delivering some of these programs, then it's a conversation we need to have at the Cabinet table and as an Assembly when we debate the next round of the operations budget. The Member had asked for some specific information. We cannot provide it here. I think the Member had asked if we would be able to provide it to him separately from this process, and we would be glad to do that. I will work with my Cabinet colleagues to see, if committee requests a technical briefing or anything of that type, we will be sure to try to help facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I appreciate the commitment of the Minister to provide the information about our procurement capacity, given the changes that have happened within the Department of Infrastructure over the last couple of years. I guess I also want to thank the Minister and his staff. We only had a briefing on these two supplementary appropriation bills this morning, and we got an email about two hours ago with seven briefing notes attached to it, with

additional information that we requested, and I am concerned about the amount of time that we be had to actually look at that information and meaningfully discuss the bill before us. I am expressing some concern about our ability to do a thorough review, given the shortened timeframe here.

Where I am going with this is I guess I am going to ask the Minister: in putting together the information packages for these supplementary appropriation bills, there is not a lot for some of these items. I am going to suggest that the kind of information that was sent to us, I know it makes for a lengthier briefing binder package, but if that kind of information can be provided up front, I think we can avoid some of the debate and discussion that we are going to have on the floor here today and make for better decisions at the end of the day. Can the Minister find a way to provide more information in the packages that he provides to us with the bills? Yes, that is what I would like to know. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Just for the record, we are discussing a tabled document, not a bill, at this point. Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the Member's attempt at giving some credit to the department. It was going along really well until I heard the "but." I take the Member's point, though. I mean, he is right. We did have a briefing this morning. We provided Members with a lot of information on the numbers that we had, and some of the questions were on the detail of why those numbers came to be. I absolutely take the Member's point. I will work with the departments to ensure that, as we go forward or we debate another capital estimate, that we have the level of detail that committee would need to come to a point where they are going to support the supplementals that are brought forward.

I will make that commitment. We will work with the department. Our folks went back and we did a lot of work in a short period of time to try to get you some of the information that we had promised you this morning, but the Member is absolutely correct. We can expand on that. We would think that, with the more detail you have, the better informed that you would be to make a decision on the supplementary estimates. I will make that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I appreciate the commitment on the part of the Minister, because some of these notes are dated May 14th and so on. This is clearly information that was generated internally for your own internal

approvals through the FMB, or whatever, and it would be helpful to be able to share that with us.

I take the Minister's commitment seriously that he is going to look at this, so I don't have anything further in terms of opening remarks. I will have some more detailed questions and comments on some of the items as we go through the package. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it is fair to be concerned around carry-overs, but my question for the Minister is: does this represent a cash flow problem? When we look at the totality of the carry-overs, that is where the concern seems to be raised, but do we have a cash flow problem as it relates to these carry-overs? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we don't believe it is a cash flow problem. I mean, we do anticipate some lapses and that as we go into the capital estimates. As far as the Member's question, I mean, we do try to get these projects out the door as quickly as possible, but the short answer to the Member's question is that we don't believe it is a cash flow problem. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not to get into detail at this point, but there are a number of road projects or the Stanton Territorial Hospital that are reflected in some of these carry-overs. Are those projects experiencing any delays because of the carry-overs? I mean the ones where the work has already been undertaken. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we don't believe that it is affecting the work at all or that there is a problem with the cash flow. The biggest project we have in the works, Stanton, is still going on. Like I said, the money has been appropriated and approved by this Assembly in last fall's capital budget. That project is still on time.

We have some challenges in trying to roll as many of these projects out the door as we can, but the departments have been working hard and trying to ensure that we get these contracts let. We have different reasons for why some of these contracts are, and I think the made the commitment to clarify

a lot of the information that we share with committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for the clarification. Nothing further. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am quite satisfied with the tabled document here summarizing the separate items and the numbers, and I look forward to going into the detail of the supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. The Member is noting his satisfaction. Seeing no further general comments, will committee please to turn page 6 of the tabled document. The first few pages are just summary information. The first votable item is on page 6, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Do we have comments or questions on page 6? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I see that this section includes the money for the portables at Ecole St. Joseph, and my question is: given the timing of this appropriation and the timing of the need for these portables, will they be in place by the start of the new school year? Does the Minister know? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the quick answer is yes, they will be in place. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I just want to clarify the designated \$1.5 million for the portables. Is that for two portables? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. I invite the Minister to direct questions to his fellow Ministers if he so sees fit and if they agree with answering, but I will ask Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I believe there are four portables, but I will confirm that. I believe it is four portables. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I am just trying to understand. There are four portables. Likely they will be, as the Minister stated, available by September 2019.

There will be a construction period. I am just trying to understand: once construction is complete, will there be an effort to demobilize the portables? Is there a process in place of, perhaps, ECE passing it on to Public Works and Services, and would they, at some point, be reallocated to another construction site? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, if you want to come through me to redirect the question, I can do that. Thank you. If I can redirect it to Minister Cochrane? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister Cochrane, would you care to answer?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The portables that are coming in actually will be retained by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. In previous years, we bought portables and we gave them to the school authorities, and then it was hard to transfer them.

They will be used for the school that will be replaced. It will be a couple of years, and then, at that time, we will be determining the best usage for them. At this point, we are not handing them over to Infrastructure. They will stay as assets for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to be used where needed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I admit it seems like a long-term question, but I have to ask: if the construction is completed for Yellowknife, would those portables possibly be available for the outlying communities, like Fort Providence? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the answer is yes, they would be. If they are not needed in the capital, then there would be an opportunity. If they are needed in other communities, then they would be available. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Seeing nothing further, I will call this section. Supplementary Estimates, (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, early childhood and school services, not previously authorized, \$1,527,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$1,527,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 7. Comments or questions? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to note, this would be one of those areas for future review of the supplemental appropriations, if the deferred maintenance projects could have even a list here tallying up what the amount would be. In this case, \$838,000 if it is three projects, 10 projects; if we could have some idea of what the deferred maintenance projects would be, it would be appreciated in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a comment.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Comment noted, and I will allow the Minister to respond. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: No, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have much to say, other than we appreciate the feedback from the Member, and we've had a couple of suggestions already, and we do take those things back and see how we can work, incorporate them into the estimates as we prepare them going forward, and the briefings that we provide to committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Seeing nothing further, I will call this activity. Infrastructure, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$838,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$838,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Continuing to page 8, Municipal and Community Affairs. I see no comments. I will call this activity. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, \$64,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee agrees. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$64,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 9. Education, Culture and Employment. Do we have comments or questions? Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In there, on the line, it talks about junior kindergarten upgrades, various, at about \$177,000. Looking through the notes, Fort Liard School, there was a carry-over. Could the Minister explain what the carry-over was? It talked about the washroom being done, but there seems to be this huge amount of carry-over presently. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I can direct that to the Minister of Education, Ms. Cochrane. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We were hoping that all the renovations, et cetera, would be done for the last fiscal year, but we had to carry over some. For the Fort Liard one, the money was carried over to finish the JK sink in the washroom, which I hear is done, I'm not sure, and to construct a fence for the outdoor play area and the equipment. All of the schools will need specialized play equipment for that age group. We are in the process for doing that for most of the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess I'm just looking at some notes here, and it says it was all done. Can the Minister please clarify? The notes I have here says the project in Fort Liard was all

done except for the fencing, but for the bathroom? Now, I'm hearing that the bathroom hasn't been completed. Can we get that verified? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in the 2017-2018 budget, we budgeted \$1.295 million for JK upgrades, and the expenditures were actually about \$1,118,629, so there is about \$176,000 in carry-over, expected carry-over. As far as the actual detail of what, we would have to find the information. If there is something with the washroom, or if a toilet seat's not put on, we will endeavour to gather that information together and share it with the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that commitment to get that clarified. The other one is Charles Tetcho School, the addition here I did speak to when we had the briefing this morning. I noticed that it's an \$891,000 carry-over. Is that information available, or is that something that we can get later on? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is the contract is in place for a multi-year project. The expected completion would be August of 2018. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just like I said, I'm trying to understand. There's a carry-over here of \$891,000, so maybe I'm not understanding it properly. I understand there is a contract in place. I know they're doing the work. I've been in there, and I noticed there was a delay there. I'm trying to understand: what's left to be done with this carry-over? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, it's another lesson learned. We will endeavour to provide a greater level of detail as to exactly what needs to be done on these projects. We are kind of looking at the overall number, the \$891,000, and seeking the Assembly's approval to carry these over. I've heard now a couple of

questions about the detail, so we will take that into consideration as we go forward and make sure that we come back to this floor with the appropriate detail. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Seeing nothing further from committee, I will call this section. Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, early childhood and school services, not previously authorized, \$3,442,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee agrees. Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, culture, heritage and languages, not previously authorized, \$200,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Committee agrees. Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, labour development and standards, not previously authorized, \$3,286,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$6,928,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Page 10, Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I think this probably might be similar to the school and playground. The regional lab in Fort Simpson, it has been ongoing for a long period of time, and some challenges have happened throughout the thing there. I guess the question is: with this carry-over, when will this project be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Yes, I feel that I have directed many questions about this lab in Fort Simpson. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. We have had some issues with this, but I can share with this floor that the project is going through its final inspection and will be completed on May 31, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. Just to clarify, that was May 31st. Correct?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. It was May 31, 2018.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that answer. I apologize because I didn't hear the May 31st, but the Minister has been very helpful to tell me it is May 31st. I greatly appreciate that. The community of Fort Simpson really appreciates this. Hopefully, we won't have to ask any more questions on it, and the Minister won't have to answer any more questions from me on this project. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Hopefully. Seeing nothing further. No, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question pertains to forest management. There is a wildland fire dispatch facility in Fort Providence. I wanted to get some clarity in terms of understanding what possibly this facility might be, whether it is a phone booth. Is it a stand-alone building? What is it? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, other than knowing that the contract has been awarded, I am not sure about the exact size of the building and that. For \$217,000, it should be larger than a phone booth. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If the Minister is stating that the contract was just awarded, what would be the anticipated completion date of the project? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The anticipated completion date would be July of this year, is my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Nadli. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Underwater resources, there is funding for the Taiga Lab Equipment Project. The notes here say the funding wasn't expended in 2017-2018, and the offsetting amount lapsed in 2017-2018, as well. Can we get clarification on the delays related to this project? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is the equipment was purchased in March of 2018. Delivery is expected in May of 2018. You don't actually pay for it until you have delivery. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Nothing further. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Next, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just under forest management, I see Schiltee lookout tower upgrade. Mr. Chair, this has been an ongoing project here for the last number of years. The community was trying to work with the department to possibly negotiate this. The amount of money that has been spent on this after putting it out to tender, contractors were hired. They made an awful mess of the terrain, too, as they try to do this work. A little too late.

If they worked with the community, they would have had adequate time to haul the material out with the snowmobiles. That way, they wouldn't ever damage the land. A lot of unnecessary funding has been going into this. It could have been up a long time ago. Moving forward, when the community does try to offer assistance in building these type of units, we should be working with them. That is my question on this project. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I take the Member's point about working with the communities. I think this project may have run into a couple of little bumps on the road. I take the Member's point about working with not only his community, but all the other communities that are getting some of these projects and tap into the knowledge that they have in the area. I will make

that commitment, something we will do going forward.

My understanding is the project is in the final stage, because you can see the carry-over is \$22,000. The project is in the final stage and will be completed by June 30, 2018. We will complete Mr. Thompson's lab in May it will be completed, Schiltee Rock in June. Then we will have the phone booth in Providence in July. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: A little too much information there, but thanks to the Minister. Just under the Shell Lake Complex replacement, I just wonder which building is this. I actually brought this up a couple of years back. The reason being is: when I was an RRO1 a number of years back, seeing the shape of the building the Renewable Resources officers were working out of, Mr. Chair, this building was built probably 50-some-odd years ago. I am just curious to know what building this is. Is this their office building or storage? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. There is a new complex that is going up there in Shell Lake. It is getting fairly close to completion. I believe it is July 31, 2018. Then the two other buildings that are there, one of them is being replaced by this particular piece of infrastructure. I believe some of the folks in that office are going to move over to another office. Then the abandoned office will either be written off or come down, because they have been there for an extremely long time. I know there is some foundational work that was done to them. That is the plan at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So it will be their office space? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The new complex? Is that what the Member is referring to? I believe there is going to be their lab. I believe there is going to be some office space in there. Some will move in there. My understanding is some will then move over to the other office that is in better shape. Then the third one, I believe, will be coming down. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I shouldn't say "coming down." It will be surplus. I don't know

what the exact plans are for it at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Blake. Seeing nothing, I will call this activity. Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, environment, not previously authorized, \$125,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, forest management, not previously authorized, \$1,768,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, water resources, not previously authorized, \$133,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, wildlife, not previously authorized, \$2,709,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$4,735,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Time for a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I'll call committee back to order. Committee, just to refresh everyone's memory, we are discussing Tabled Document 193-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019. We had just voted on the Department of ENR, capital investment expenditures, and are now on page 11, Health and Social Services. We are looking at nearly \$50 million here. Comments or questions from committee? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the largest item by far on this page is the almost \$32 million that relates to the Stanton Territorial Hospital Renewal Project, and we are all aware that this project is supposed to be complete in the late fall. So I guess I am wondering what did not get done that is worth \$32 million and whether the project is still on schedule. Thank you.

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

MR. KALGUTKAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The major delays were in some of the drywalling, and, on many of the floors, the contractor has made up the gap in that timing and a lot of the floors have now caught up. All the drywalling is up and boarded, and the only floor that is slightly behind schedule is level zero, which is where all of the mechanical systems are. When Members go through the facility on Friday, I believe, you are going to see a fairly completed hospital. It's actually going to start looking like a hospital now, and we totally anticipate that we will hit the service commencement date of December 1, 2018. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Nothing further, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to that replacement, is that Samba K'e here or is that Somba K'e in Yellowknife? It says "Health Stanton Replacement," but it says "Saamba K'e." Is that the City of Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is a "Health Station Replacement," so that would be in Samba K'e in the Member's riding, formerly Trout Lake, Samba K'e.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I guess I should have taken my glasses off so I could look at the fine print there. In regard to this health station replacement, why was there a carry-over? Is that because of the winter road? Because, when I went in there recently, they were all going crazy, they were building up, and it was going up pretty quick. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. The project experienced some timeline delays due to the winter road delivery. Substantial completion, though, is expected in 2019. A multi-year construction contract is in place. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank you, and I thank the Minister for that. So when in 2019? Is it going to be done in the summertime, or is it going to be done in December? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We will have to work with the contractor to come up with an exact timeline, and we will share that with the Member for Nahendeh, and I will stop there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that. I am just trying to make sure I can get this information to the council, so I greatly appreciate the Minister getting that information. As soon as we get it, or even if the Minister or the department can get back to the community, that would be great. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Like I said, we will work with the contractor to come up with a completion timeline. I am sure Health will be aware of a completion timeline, and we will share that information with the Member for Nahendeh. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Nothing further from Mr. Thompson. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the Town of Hay River provides a lot of the long-term care needs for my community of Fort Resolution. I was just wondering what the timeline is on the 48-bed facility, the long-term care facility, in Hay River? It indicates a carry-over, but I was just wondering if I could get the Minister to give me an idea when the project will be actually started and when it's expected to be completed?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is a site selection is in process, designed to start in the summer of 2018, with construction in the spring of 2019. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so the construction would be starting

next summer. I am wondering how much of the project is expected to be completed in that fiscal year? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are not sure how much would be completed. I do not even believe we have a contract in place for the construction. We do not have a design. Once we have that information, or once Health has that information, then we would be in a better position to share it with the Member and with committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the health centre in Fort Resolution, the replacement health centre for Fort Resolution, there is almost \$1.8 million in carry-over. My understanding is that it will be ready for move-in sometime early this fall. I was wondering if that is still on schedule. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, on that particular project, a substantial completion was issued in March of 2018. Carry-over is required to address seasonal work site and building deficiencies. A contract is in place, and once those deficiencies are addressed, then I would assume that they would move into the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess I am also concerned about the large lapses in funding for the Stanton Renewal Project and the Extended Care Project, which isn't going to be in the old Stanton hospital. Those two projects are in my riding. If I look at the total of them, it is over \$40 million, which is almost a quarter of the total supplementary appropriation that the Cabinet is seeking at this point. Sorry, they're carry-overs, not lapses.

We had some explanation of what is happening with the Stanton Renewal Project, but can I get some explanation of what is happening with the Extended Care Project, why close to \$9 million was lapsed, and whether that is going to affect the overall schedule for those beds? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, on this particular project, the project is combined with the development of the legacy Stanton building. Construction is expected in the summer of 2019. Design is in progress. A contract is in place. Obviously, the completion of the Stanton Territorial Hospital, I think, will play a large part on this particular one going forward, but the anticipation is that the project is on time, and they should be in a position to advance the work on extended care. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I know we are getting a tour of Stanton Renewal on Friday. Is there going to be some discussion about the extended care unit and what is happening with the old hospital while we are over there as well? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, if I could, I would like to go to Minister Abernethy, the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Minister Abernethy, would you like to help out the Minister of Finance?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will try. We have already indicated in this House what our intention is of the old, existing Stanton building. We are intending to put extended care in there, long-term care, 72 beds, OT/PT, the Frame Lake clinic, as well as other functional services, like kitchens and those types of things, to support the services that will be provided out of the old building.

One of the reasons that the Extended Care Project is being deferred is that, once upon a time, we were actually looking at going with a standalone building, but as we have continued to do our work, it has become clear that there is better value for money in actually putting extended care in the old Stanton building.

Once we move into the new Stanton, then we will have to empty the old Stanton, which means we will have to find a temporary home for extended care while we conduct the renovations on the old Stanton to allow us to bring in those new services. We are intending and hoping, as the Minister said, to start moving on that in the summer of 2019 and continue as quickly as we can so that we can have a move-in date for about 72 long-term care as well as the extended-care beds. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the long answer from the Minister. Are we going to have any discussion about this on the tour on Friday? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are trying to get as much detail into our answers as possible. They might seem a little long sometimes because we have committed to committee, in the spirit of consensus government, that we are going to try to get as much detail to them as possible as we deliberate the supplementary estimates that are before us.

I think the short answer to the Member's question, the indication that I got from the Minister of Health and Social Services, is yes, we will have that discussion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister, and we are in no rush. The sun is still out. I see nothing further from Mr. O'Reilly. Seeing nothing further from committee, I will call this activity. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, \$34,896,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$15,012,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$49,908,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Turning to page 12, Industry, Tourism and Investment. This is a two-pager. It spans pages 12 and 13. A lot of carry-overs, apparently. Comments or questions from committee? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, as a matter of fact, there are a lot of carry-overs. I wonder if anything got done last year. Why are there so many carry-overs? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As far as what got done last year, I would have to follow up and see exactly how much was done last year. The Member has some concerns about the amount of carry-overs, but I would be positive that there was substantial work done last year. I will gather the information and share it with the Member.

We provided a brief note, I believe, to committee of some of the questions they had this morning. I am not sure if it went into enough detail, but I would be willing to make the commitment to follow up on that and see what got done last year.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. In a broad sense, the Member asked why there are so many carry-overs for this particular department. Do you have a general answer as to why this department has so many carry-overs in particular?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, because this is parks, they have a very short season to get a lot of this work done. I would think that that would be the reason for some of the carry-overs. There are some projects that need to be done when the weather warms up. Again, I have committed to trying to find a little bit more information and share that with committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the Minister's offer, but it really isn't necessary. I don't need more detail. I am just trying to understand why there are so many carry-overs from last year. One is the short construction season. I am wondering whether it is also difficult to find contractors in some of these small locations. I am just trying to get a sense of what the barrier is here. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. The short construction season, we understand, and my understanding is that there is trouble finding contractors sometimes to go into some of these places. That would be a couple of the reasons for the amount of carry-overs: short construction season and the issue with finding contractors. If there are contractors listening out there, there is an opportunity, because there is fairly significant carry-over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I urge the Minister and also the Minister of ITI to consider how to move these projects along. We all know that tourism is a growing industry here in the NWT, and it is important to keep the parks in good repair and repair the things that are broken down, like the shower house in Fort Providence. The sooner that this work can be done, the better. I hope that the Minister will be able to move these projects along and ensure that our parks are ready for visitors. That is a comment, not a question, and I have nothing further.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is just more of a general comment, not particularly towards this department's investments, but I would like to ask the Minister in a general sense if they would consider own sources or project management type of approaches to some of these.

Some of these projects are near some of the communities where you have fairly highly skilled individuals that do work on buildings. In my community of Fort Resolution, I think when they built the health centre, the department may have had one person from an actual contract go in, and the rest were all local people. They had a lot of local skilled people in quite a few communities across the territory.

I am wondering, if this is becoming an issue where you are having trouble getting contractors, I think contractors are definitely the first way to do the projects, but I would ask if the Minister could maybe talk to the various departments to see if many of this work can be done locally at the community level and see if we could get more projects done within the appropriate fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I take the Member's point, and I think it is something that we need to look at if there is trouble getting contractors in some of these places, if we were to get a qualified person into the community to hire some locals to do the work and have them oversee it and sign off on it, because I think, for some of these, you almost have to be a journeyman carpenter now.

I have seen it work in the past. In one of the communities that I lived in, I have seen where they had a local journeyman. They had a number of

workers that worked there, and they actually did a very good job.

I think that this is something that I will have discussion with my Cabinet colleagues about, if there is a way that we can advance this. One of our mandate items is trying to put people to work, and if we can do that, I think it will be a bonus, not only for this government, but for the community as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am on page 13. There is a list of projects under tourism and parks. I am particularly interested in the K1 Kitchen Shelter Replacement. The line item is \$304,000, which seems to be quite high, considering the replacement of the manager's residence in Kakisa is only \$200,000. I have been to at least one of the kitchen shelters in the park, and I am just wondering if we can get some justification on the value for money for this project. I mean, it seems very, very high. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is that they have identified a lot of issues with the existing structure, and it represents a risk to health and safety, but I think the Member's question is why the replacement is costing \$304,000. I am not quite sure. My understanding is that they are going to do a design contract to be awarded in the spring of 2018 with construction in the fall of 2018. I am not sure exactly what the specs are for the new shelter. I would have to follow up with the Department of Infrastructure and see. I take the Member's point, though. You are looking at \$304,000. Slightly larger than a phone booth.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, and I appreciate the Minister sharing some of my concerns, but at this point, the Minister believes that this appropriation is appropriate for this project? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, when this was originally introduced, I believe we had passed it in the capital budget session, and it seemed to be appropriate at the time. Again, without knowing the details and the specs required for the new facility, it is probably not fair for me to comment on that, but once we know

the details or have a conceptual design, then we will have a pretty good indication.

Maybe it's the cost of doing business in the capital, as well, and I don't mean that in a negative way, but there is a higher cost to doing business in the capital. It is less expensive in some of the smaller communities.

I will keep on top of this. I will have a discussion with the appropriate departments and see exactly what this building looks like. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know this Minister in particular has an eye for cost savings. I am confident that he will take this matter seriously, and if there is value for money to be had, he will find a way to have it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Testart. I will go to Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just looking at page 12, tourism and parks, carried over to page 13. I am glad to see that there is a significant amount of money going to our territorial parks programming and inventory for O and M and upkeep and upgrade.

On the issue of the Canol Heritage Trail Emergency Shelters, allowed for \$372,000, I am glad to see that is back on a carry-over. As I understand, some of the logistics in seeing this project through resulted into a barging schedule and mountain weather; so I am glad it is in there.

Overall, I am glad to see that we are taking a vested interest in our territorial park upgrade and maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Would the Minister care to respond? No response from the Minister. Seeing no one further on my list, I will call this department. Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, economic diversification and business support, not previously authorized, \$3,860,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures, tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$3,508,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Industry, Tourism and Investment, capital investment expenditures,

total department, not previously authorized, \$7,368,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 14 and 15, which have the details for the Department of Infrastructure. Comments or questions? Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 14, the third line, Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk all-weather highway - various for \$191,000, I am just wondering if the Minister can give some details on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is there are repairs to the highway. There are some compaction and surfacing, gravel in required areas from kilometre 21 to 46. I think, at the end of the last construction season, there was a small stretch that did not have the surfacing gravel, which is crushed rock, so that is the reason for the \$191,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Yes, just one more thing. I do not know if the Minister of Infrastructure or the Minister of Finance will know, but I just want to know a plan for the highway for the upcoming weeks, as session will be closed soon. I was wondering if the department has a plan for the summer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, for that, I would like to go to the Minister of Infrastructure.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Minister Schumann, this will be a good introduction for the public briefing you will be giving later today. Minister Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have stated in the House, there are some deficiencies that needed to be carried over from this year. The section that the Minister of Finance just talked about was not completed due to the cold weather. We were not able to get up there to do the compaction, do the necessary work that needed to be done because of the weather, but, as I stated in the House, we have deficiencies around bridges, signage, embankments, and the completion of

these gravel sections that we are currently working on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Anything further? Nothing further from Mr. Nakimayak. Next, Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Under the "Taltson expansion, pre-construction," the amount is \$200,000. Could the Minister just speak to what that entails? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister McLeod is indicating that Mr. Kalgutkar will take this. Mr. Kalgutkar.

MR. KALGUTKAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$200,000 in the supplemental report for this fiscal year related to the project is for the department to undertake a study of a potential approach to the Taltson hydro project in terms of expanding the line through Great Slave Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you. So my understanding is that it's to explore the electricity market, to define the potential business model, including partnership discussions and a crossing study for the Great Slave Lake for transmission lines, and a regulatory review and engagement of stakeholders. So is that the full extent of the appropriation? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. That is the full extent of the investment. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With the first round of calls to the National Trade Corridors funding from the Government of Canada, with this project not being included in that funding, where does this get us? We are putting the work into this study right now. Does the government believe that is going to get us any closer to success when we are looking for federal dollars? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, any time you can do some of this work to help with your business case to Canada, then I think it's a worthwhile investment. I mean, we would like to think that this government would be ready if there are some dollars that could be had rather than waiting for them to come to us and say, "Well, we have got this money; how can you use

it?" and then develop a business case. That is probably better developing a business case and then going and presenting that business case as that helps you secure the funding. Obviously, this is going to be a multi-year funding agreement because it's going to be a significant investment, so we want to ensure that we are in a position to put a good business case forward and secure that funding from Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I agree with the Minister. I think that, with so much of our climate change planning dependent on this project, we need to start the investment, so, yes, I do support this, and I am thankful for the Minister's explanation of the scale of the project. Thank you. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am also on the Taltson dam project. I guess I am reading it as the \$200,000 that is put in there for this coming fiscal year as a study to cross the Great Slave Lake, so I am wondering if I could get an explanation on that. I am seeing where the Taltson is, and I would like to kind of know where it's going to cross Great Slave Lake. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is that they are looking at some design options. I don't think an exact location has been chosen. I mean, that is part of the reason that we are coming forward for the money, is to help us with that work as to choosing a location, how to cross the lake. I would have to confirm that and get more information, but I would assume that is what the ask is for. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am asking of course because the one Taltson power line ends at Fort Resolution, and that is at the Great Slave Lake, and then the other one ends at Hay River, and that is also the Great Slave Lake, so I do not know if you know if they are planning on tying into the Bluefish, if we are going to come across at Great Slave Lake at Hay River or if we are going to come across at Fort Resolution. I am wondering if they are going to study both of those, looking at the options. I did not think we were going to cross the Great Slave Lake. I thought we were going to stay on the right-of-way, the highway

right-of-way, but that is not for me to say. It just seems odd that we are studying the crossing of the Great Slave Lake. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does the Minister have any more details about where this line may cross or where it may end up on the other side or any of those kind of details? Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We do not have that level of detail, and that would be what the study would be, would be studying different options, and I am sure the options that the Member pointed out would be some of the options that they would be looking at, but I will confirm that again. Once they start their preliminary work, I think they will have a good indication of exactly what they are looking at, and I think that would be an appropriate time to have a sit-down with committee and say: this is what we are looking at; can we get some feedback from committee? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 14, we are talking about Highway No. 1 reconstruction, various. What sections of the highway were not completed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, Highway No. 1, and I think the Minister of Infrastructure pointed this out the other day, there is going to be 76 kilometres of chipseal resurfacing, embankment reconstruction and rehabilitation, and draining improvement from kilometre 207 to kilometre 212. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So this was not done last fiscal year, or is this a new project? I am just trying to understand because we had a carry-over in this area here. Maybe I am missing something. Could the Minister please advise? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The original budget was \$3.5 million; the actual expenditures were \$2.266 million. There is \$1.234 million, and that is a carry-over, so there was some work that was done last year. It wasn't completed, so we had to carry over so they can continue on with the work this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That information that you just gave to us, that's the work that's going to be done this fiscal year? The carry-over from the \$1.2 million? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That is correct, Mr. Chair. It is a \$1.2 million carry over to do the work this year, from my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I would assume then it is similar for the Highway No. 7 reconstruction; that's chip sealing, resurface, repairs and drainage improvements, from 137 to 153, correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is correct. With a lot of the work on the highway, if you use the carry-over, the original budget, some of the work was done, but with the carry-overs it's work that still needs to be done that wasn't able to be completed last year. So I would assume in this case, Highway No. 7, there was about, \$3 million was the original budget, \$2.4 million was expended, and we have \$628,000 left. Anytime you see that, it's obviously carry-over because work wasn't completed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. Later on, can I get an update on why this carry-over had to occur, why the project wasn't done, so when people ask the questions I know I can give them the answers? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, if the Member sends me an email, we can provide him with a bit of an update, but all he needs to tell people is that the work was not completed, therefore the requirement for a carry-over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for that suggestion, but they would like a little more detail. I guess I'll follow up with an email with the Minister of Infrastructure on this, and try to get a breakdown, but I thank the Minister for providing information here today. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Thompson. I don't hear a question in there; we shall move on. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm looking at some of the highway projects on here, and there are some big numbers and they are very labour intensive, these projects, and I was wondering if the Minister knows if the Department of Finance keeps track of what portion of these are being done by northern firms, or what portion of northern employment there is? We are spending a lot of money on these highways. I want to know: what sort of money is staying in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I believe they do keep track of the work, and I think it's part of the contract, and things may have changed, but you normally have to put your northern content in there. So all we need to do is have a conversation with Infrastructure as to what percentage was done by Northerners, and obviously we would like to see the bulk of this work done by northern companies, and I think for the most part, now maybe in the southern part of the territories there's a bit more challenge because they're a little easier accessible for the southern companies to move in, but we'll provide that information as to the northern content and how much might be going to northern businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know that these were all discussed, these were all previously approved last year, and so this is more about the carry-over, but with a lot of these big projects being from the southern part of the territory, I know that it's hard for the northern firms in the southern part of the territory to compete with a lot of these southern firms. Especially when you start talking about really big contracts, when the Business Incentive Policy doesn't apply so much. The reason I ask what the northern hire is, and the benefits of the North are, is because I think it's about time that we start looking at the costs and benefits of negotiated contracts sometimes, or breaking up some of the larger contracts into smaller ones that are more manageable by northern firms. Is that

something that the department is doing, or the Minister is aware of? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you Mr. Simpson. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I take the Member's point that we do want the benefits of a lot of the money that's spent by the government to be with government firms, or with territorial firms. I think in the past they have tried to break down some of the contracts. I'm not sure about the infrastructure side of the highway contract, but I can have a conversation with the Minister of Infrastructure. We've heard your concerns, we've heard concerns from some of the businesspeople around the Northwest Territories about the fact that they feel that some of the southern companies come in and take advantage of the money that the GNWT spends, so ideally we'd like to see as much of this stay in the Northwest Territories as possible. We have a number of firms that deliver a quality product, and we should be taking advantage of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If infrastructure saves ten bucks, and income support has to pay out one hundred, that's not good value to the GNWT in general. I'll just leave it at that, thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister McLeod, did you want to provide a comment?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I think I am going to take the Member's point, and I think you can look at the Tuktoyaktuk highway as a prime example of the money that stays in the territories, and I think we've all seen the number of folks who work there, so that is one of the benefits of that project. Income support numbers, I know, went down. Housing rent collections actually went up, so there is benefit. I take the Member's point; we take that very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you Minister McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do have some questions about Taltson Expansion. I know there is \$200,000 in this supplementary appropriation package, in that \$150,000 is coming from the federal government, so the rest is coming from us, and I thank the Minister and his staff for giving us a bit of a 10-year schedule of what might happen, but there is almost no information here, very little details on what this project is really all about. I understand he is prepared to provide some more

information about the Great Slave Lake Crossing study, but this was something that was tried by Deger(ph) Energy. The environmental assessment for that was terminated in 2013, almost five years ago. So why is this being dredged up now? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Finally, some dredging getting done. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am going to make an attempt to answer that, and if I'm wrong then I'm sure the Minister of Infrastructure will correct me. As far as the Member's first point on the information that we provided them, again, I think it goes back to an earlier point that one of the Member has made about the short timeline that we had from the briefing this morning, until we got into Committee of the Whole with the supplementary estimates this afternoon, so we tried to provide whatever information we could in that short timeframe. As we go forward, we're going to try and space this out so we can have a little bit of back and forth or give Members a little more detailed information that they can absorb before we have our discussion. That could be one of the reasons that the information on here, as far as five years ago, I think, now, this is being dredged up, because there is an opportunity here to tap into a lot of federal dollars. We start the work now. We will be able to access some of those dollars.

There is a big push from the federal government with all the initiatives they are rolling out the door by the bushel to support projects like this. This fits right into their mandate. There is an opportunity for us to put some preliminary work together, go to them with a fairly good business case, and then see if we can get the funding. We will go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. Look, Deger Energy didn't go ahead for a bunch of reasons, but one of the key ones was there was no buyer, no buyers identified at the end of the day. We still don't have any buyers either north of the lake or south of the lake. I just don't understand why this is being pursued.

If we use the money that we are trying to put into this project for almost anything else, whether it is energy retrofits in housing, small energy projects in smaller communities, we would get way more value for our money, I think. I am very interested in seeing this business case. Can the Minister confirm

that there are no buyers for this power, there is nothing so far? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding, there are no buyers at this moment, but give us the opportunity to go and do the work, do the initial studies, go present the business case to Canada. If we present the business case to Canada and they look favourably on it, then that might, in turn, give us some buyers. I am just assuming that is going to happen.

If you want to sell a product, you have to have a good business case to sell that product, and we can put one together. It is \$200,000 in the overall big picture. We do make a lot of other investments, as this floor obviously knows, in a number of different energy initiatives, territorial-wide.

If this is an investment of \$200,000 to allow us to do the initial work, then make a fairly good business case, and try to secure funding, then we may be able to secure the buyers. That would be part of this, as well. Allow us to do the work. Then, if we come to the point where it is not feasible, we will have to cross that bridge when we come to it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I understand what the Minister has said. That bridge is already on us. The energy strategy contains commitments to build expansions to Taltson that are going to account for 44 per cent for our greenhouse gas reductions when we don't have any confirmed buyers, no money. I just don't think this is a good investment of money, quite frankly. I can't support this, even at \$200,000.

If this money is to be used to look at replacing diesel in existing communities and building transmission lines to get Taltson power to, say, Fort Providence or Kakisa, maybe even to Yellowknife, I could support this. If it is to build huge transmission lines to the diamond mines or to try to sell this power in Alberta or Saskatchewan, that is totally wrong. I will not support any of that. If the Minister wants to respond, I would be happy to hear it. That is not the kind of project that we need. I won't support it. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Would the Minister care to respond? Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we can't doom this project to failure before we even start. We need to make a business

case. If we build a business case and we are able to secure customers, then that, in turn, will have an effect on ratepayers across Northwest Territories. That will bring their cost of living down. There is a trickle-down effect. It is \$200,000 in the overall big picture. I think it is a worthwhile investment. If you are trying to sell something, you need to put a good business case forward. The Member may disagree with me. We have a number of initiatives government-wide, a lot of the money that we spend on initiatives to help a lot of the small communities. Being from a small community, I see that quite clearly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Anything further? Mr. O'Reilly, three minutes.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am not going to take up three minutes. Look, we can get way bigger bang for our buck and reduce the cost of energy in small communities by not going ahead with this and putting in space heating that relies on wood pallets, biomass, small-scale power energy retrofits. We can get way bigger bang for our buck than the billions of dollars this is going to cost.

I look forward to seeing what kind of business case is prepared, but this is not the way that we are going to be able to meet our Pan-Canadian Framework targets. This is not the way that we are going to lower the cost of energy in our communities. We have way better ways to achieve that. I don't expect a response, and I don't really want one from the Minister at this point. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. O'Reilly doesn't want you responding on his time, but I will restart the clock. Minister McLeod, 10 minutes.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to respond. I am not going to get into a debate with the Member. We can have our debate off the floor. There are a couple of things. This is not billions of dollars. We are talking \$200,000 as an initial investment to put a business case together. If the business case proves that it is not feasible to do, then we will have to have a look at it.

It is \$200,000. If the business case proves fruitful, then there may be a bit more investment. Again, taking advantage of the federal government's money. It is \$200,000 to try to put a business case together to see if it is feasible to go forward and try and secure more funding to see this project through. Thank you.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will start on Highway No. 8 here. I see carry-over of \$1.4 million. Is this work going to continue this summer? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, Mr. Chair. That is the expectation, that the work will continue this summer. From what I read, there is some gravel resurfacing from kilometres 0 to 30; culvert replacement at kilometres 143 and 148; and brushing at kilometres 161 to 168. I was going to say "Inuvik." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Next, I will go to the Inuvik airport access road. I believe the contract was awarded earlier this spring. Is that where the carry-over is going? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the construction contract is under way. Carry-over is required to meet the obligation of the federal agreement. The Member is correct. There is going to be some work done on their embankment; widening and replacement of steel pipe, culverts, and chip seal; resurfacing from kilometres 259 to 269, as well as the hospital hill drive near the airport access road. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2019. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Sounds interesting. Next, I will move to the James Creek maintenance camp, the carry-over there. Last I heard, the contract was near being awarded. Since then, has the contract been awarded? When can we expect to see work being started on this project? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. There is the carry-over. The project was delayed, responding to the Gwich'in Land and Water Board use for a land-use permit. As far as the contract being awarded, I am not aware of the contracts being awarded yet. I will work on my colleague from the Department of Infrastructure to see if a contract has been awarded. It seems to be the bulk of the delay is with the land-use permit. I believe they had chosen a site for this, and then they have to go through the

Gwich'in Land and Water Board. We will follow up on that and get a bit more detail and on the awarding of the contract, if it has been awarded yet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That sounds good. I was hoping they negotiated it, but I am sure we will get a little more information from the Minister once he is available there. I will move onto the parking garage we have in Aklavik. I believe this is the second time where we have this carry-over. Will the department ensure the work is done this summer as soon as possible? I'm sure the community would appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not sure what stage the project is at right now. Again, I will work with the Minister of Infrastructure to see what stage it is at, and see if there is an opportunity to complete that work this summer. As the Member said, I think it has been carried over a couple of times now, so we have to ensure that the project is completed and they can use that garage, and we won't have to come back to this floor for another carry-over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, that sounds great. Next, I will move on to the Inuvik wind project. I am glad to see it after many years of working on this. I am sure this is a great benefit to the community, as we all know how many people are leaving Inuvik due to the cost of living, with heat and everything that has gone up so high in the last few years because of high costs. I do believe that one of the projects is under way to build the road to the site. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is that is correct. The work began to start the road to the site. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Could you repeat that?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that the road to the site has been started. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will try to run the clock here. Just kidding. When can we see the project completed? It would be pretty exciting for this region to actually have a wind turbine in the community, and just to see how that affects the cost of living. It would be a good example for other communities, as well. When can we see this project completed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding with the folks who pay for power and that, I am looking forward to seeing what benefits there are from this particular project. My understanding is it's a three-year project. There is work to be done over the next three years. In looking into this further, there seems to be a lot more to it than I initially thought, and I thought they could get it up in one year, but it didn't work that way. It's my understanding it's a three-year project, and we're looking forward to seeing any benefits that might come from it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Next, I have Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just looking at the list and being mindful of green initiative allowances, as well as being mindful of the federal infrastructure dollars out there, and the time frame remaining in both governments, and the opportunity to access these infrastructure dollars federally. Given that, given the scope of the program, the guidelines, and my previous term as a board member to the NWT Power Corporation, along with my colleague on the other side, I am interested to see more work done on the Taltson application to substantiate a detailed business case there to see if it is going to be justifiable to forward at the next round for the federal dollars that are available.

I am overall, I would say, pleased with the initiatives undertaken on pages 14 and 15 for job creation, green initiatives, upgrading, capital asset purchase in Norman Wells where some equipment -- this is just my note to the Assembly: if we can, I would say be mindful. I've taken advantage of the infrastructure dollars opportunities that are there, and they will be there for a short period of time until the next federal elections and territorial elections. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Would the Minister like to respond? No

response from the Minister. We're into round two. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, of course, I'm very interested in the Taltson. I have made several Member statements on Taltson about the impacts. The negative impact of the Taltson Dam downstream on businesses, and downstream, essentially, that dam has killed the fur industry for the people of Taltson River. The least the government should be doing, if they're thinking of expanding this, is consulting with the people who were impacted. I have asked several times now that the government look at this, and if they are determined to proceed with this and they want to make it a little bit easier, maybe they should start off by consulting with the Aboriginal people who were impacted.

I have mentioned several times that the entire fur industry was shut down in the Taltson a few times. A few years, people went trapping in the spring, and there is no beaver or muskrat on the river, and that is what they do, spring hunt. Taltson River was a very prosperous river at one point prior to the Taltson Dam going in, and it sustained a lot of people. There are a lot of trappers who are not trapping. The economy evolves, but at that time, just about the entire Northwest Territories was based on the fur trade, and that is why the Hudson's Bay and the Northwest Company came north, due to the fur trade. There was a lot of fur coming out of the Taltson River at one point, and that all changed because of the dam.

I asked a simple question: would the government consult with the people who are impacted by the Taltson Dam so at least they know that somebody is listening to what they've got to say? So far, the responses I am getting from range from "No" to "We will if we have a project." Now, we have a budget. It is all planning, but there is a budget of \$10 million for Taltson. We're asking questions. We are just saying, "Okay, we are going to check into it. We are going to study to see if it's feasible." I am asking the government to make sure that, before they proceed any further, they consult with the people of Fort Resolution, for sure, and also the people who were impacted as a result of the changes on a natural lake, the Lutselk'e people. That's my question to the Minister. Before proceeding any further, if they want support, then will they consult with the people of Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, and if we can keep the chatter down on the floor of the House while the Members are speaking. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I take the Member's point. My

understanding is that original dam was built in the sixties, when people used to come in in their shiny airplanes and tell us what was good for us, then went ahead and did it anyway, but things have changed since then, and I think our government has evolved since then. It is respectful to consult, and I would think that that is what we would do.

The \$200,000 is to build a business case; \$150,000 of that is coming from the federal government, I must add, so \$50,000 of our money. That is to develop a business case, and if talking to the folks who are going to be affected is part of developing our business case, then it is wise to do that.

I am not sure who is going to do the consulting, but I'm Finance Minister; I can make a commitment on their behalf. It is respectful, and I think that we would do that. We have seen cases in the past where they have come in and determined that this was a good project, and you're going to live with the consequences of it, but those days are gone, brother.

I think we need to respect the fact that we need to consult, because if you want to move projects ahead, like you said, then it's just respectful to talk to the people who are affected, and I commit that we will do that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further? Seeing nothing further from committee, I will call this section. Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$46,986,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, programs and services, not previously authorized, \$22,676,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$69,662,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 16, the Department of Justice. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you. North Slave Correctional Centre Security Retrofit. We are still looking at this project. What is the status of it? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is the contract is in place. I am not sure if we have had any discussions with the contractor as to a completion date, but I will follow up with the appropriate department. June? The end of June is the completion date. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding from some of my constituents is that the exercise yard is currently in use. I know this is an operational concern, but I am wondering if this project still needs to be completed to bring the facility into full operation. Is the Minister aware of that at this point? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I could redirect the question through you to the Minister of Justice?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Minister Sebert.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes. As you have heard, the project is hopefully to be completed by the end of June, and I understand that inmates will have access to the larger exercise yard beginning this summer. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: Obviously, this appropriation speaks to the security deficit work that is being corrected. North Slave Correctional Centre Zone 1 Security Infrastructure. Can the Minister provide some details on that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Again, through you, Mr. Chair, I would like to go to the Minister of Justice.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister Sebert.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I'm not entirely sure of the question. Again, you have heard that the project is hopefully going to be completed in June. Certainly, by the summer, they will have access. In fact, it is hoped that they will have access to the larger exercise yard, I see from my note here, in early June. That is the hope.

I am not certain what the balance of the question concerns. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister, I will let Mr. Testart repeat the question. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you for the opportunity to clarify, Mr. Chair. On page 16 of the supplementary estimates, at the top of the page is North Slave Correctional Centre Security Retrofit, \$541,000, and then, down the list, there is North Slave Correctional Centre Zone 1 security infrastructure, \$617,000. I am asking if I can get an explanation of this \$617,000 appropriation. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you for clarifying the question. Minister Sebert.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you. I have been passed a note that there is a contract in place for the NSCC Zone 1 security infrastructure. Construction is under way. Anticipated completion by the end of July 2018.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is that internal to the facility? I know that there was some work that was being undertaken to improve various internal infrastructure. I am just wondering if that is the same extent of the work that we have seen in previous budget documents. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. I will direct this to the Minister of Finance. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, a contract is in place for this project, as well. Some of the particular details that the Member is looking for, we are trying to gather that information. If it helps, I can commit to gathering information and sharing it with the Member, but contracts are in place. I am not sure what their timelines are like. We will have to have a conversation with the contractors. I will gather that information through the department and share it with Member Testart. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and that would be helpful. I am certainly not looking to question the specifics of these projects, other than to gain a general awareness of where the improvements are being targeted and, fundamentally, to know that they are going to get done in a timely fashion. The contract for the security deficiencies has not gone ahead, so I will be keeping an eye for the June date and the July date to ensure that they are done.

Just turning to court services, there is more money in here for the courthouse. Are these all carry-overs from previous years? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. These are carry-overs. Again, as far as the detail goes, something that I think we have learned today is that some of the information that the Members are looking for, I don't have the level of detail provided to me. What I will do is I will have a conversation with all of the departments and ask them to provide me with a little bit more detail to some of the questions that Members are asking so that I am in a better position to defend their asks for the appropriations. I apologize for that, and I think we have also ironed out the process that we are going to use with committee. We will try to space this out a bit and provide them with a bit more detail. Hopefully, that will answer some of their questions before they come in here because they are aware of the detail.

I think there were a couple of lessons that we have learned today, but I will speak to my Cabinet colleagues about the information that the departments provide to us to provide to Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Yes, I see what you're saying. Those are some thin binders that you have got in front of you there. Anything further, Mr. Testart?

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that from the Minister, and I certainly appreciate that a great deal of effort goes into these reviews because it is a significant expenditure of taxpayer money.

Just on this, I don't have an issue with the work being done. I recognize that it's important, but, again, I have raised the concern on continuing to modify a rented facility, which is the courthouse. Can the Minister just confirm that we are still moving along with a planning study for a new courthouse building or a stand-alone courthouse building?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Kalgutkar.

MR. KALGUTKAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, the Member is right. We are continuing and in the final stages of finalizing a business case on an alternative approach to providing court services in Yellowknife. We should hopefully have that done by the fall of this calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, until that, can we expect no further appropriations for the current courtroom renovations until that planning study is done, notwithstanding the work that's already been undertaken, so no new work apart from what is already going on until we can see that business case and potentially approve a new facility? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it is my understanding that there is no new work being done, and we will have a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Any final words, Mr. Testart?

MR. TESTART: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Not to say that, if there is a security deficiency or something like that that needs to get done, it should not get done. All I am saying is that, if we are going to commit to a new planning study, we should be considering a new building before we throw money, more money, into the rented building. That just quite frankly is not good value for money when you look at it over time, and studies have been done on this. So I am content with that, and I am content that the Minister is not spending any more money than he has to on this project. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Justice, capital investment expenditures, corrections, not previously authorized, \$17,602,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Justice, capital investment expenditures, court services, not previously authorized, \$835,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Justice, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$18,437,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. The final department of the infrastructure expenditures, Lands, is on page 17, \$69,000. Comments or questions? Seeing none, Lands, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, \$69,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Lands, capital investment expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$69,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 193-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 2, 2018-2019?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister, and thank you to your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 49-18(3):
CONCURRENCE OF Tabled DOCUMENT 193-18(3): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2018-2019, CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 193-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 2, 2018-2019, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 193-18(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in the formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

---Carried

Thank you, committee. That brings us to the halfway point of our agenda for the evening. Committee, we have next agreed to consider Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019. I will turn to the Minister of Finance for any opening comments. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am here to present Tabled Document 194-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019. This document provides for an increase of \$12.6 million to the operations budget.

The major items included in these supplementary estimates include:

- \$6.5 million to fund activities associated with the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund Funding Agreement with the Government of Canada. These expenditures will be partially offset by funding from the federal government.
- \$3.1 million to continue delivering existing programs under the Canada-NWT Workforce Development Agreement. These expenditures are fully offset by revenues from the federal government.
- \$1.3 million for the additional expenditures associated with providing a 1 per cent wage increase for non-unionized employees, effective April 1, 2018.
- \$723,000 for expenditures associated with initiatives started in 2017-2018 under the Canada-NWT Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. This amount was offset by an equivalent lapse of funding in 2017-2018.
- \$694,000 for the additional expenditures associated with the collective agreement between the GNWT and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chair. I am prepared to respond to the committee's questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, you may take your seat at the witness table. Minister McLeod, will you please introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to my right I have Mr. David Stewart, who is the deputy minister of Finance. To my left, I have Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar, who is the deputy secretary to the FMB. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Welcome back to the witnesses. Committee, do you agree to forgo opening comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will proceed directly into the detail, which begins on page 4 of the supplementary estimates for the operations expenditures. Legislative Assembly is the first department that we hit. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The line here is \$59,000 for a 1 per cent compensation increase for non-unionized employees, effective April 1, 2018. This is consistent throughout this

document. I think on every page there is the same adjustment, the non-unionized employee adjustment. With your indulgence, I will just ask a general question around it before we approve this appropriation.

Obviously, non-unionized employees are separate from the collective bargaining process, which, for all intents, is stalled. Does the Minister have any concerns that moving ahead with this 1 per cent compensation increase might impact the collective bargaining process if it is approved in this supplementary appropriation? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Cagey use of procedure by the Member. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't think it will impact it. Thank you.

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

MR. TESTART: I might disagree with the Minister, but we will have to wait to see what occurs should the appropriation move forward.

Now, if there is a change in the collective agreement, my understanding is that non-unionized employees' compensation is typically matched to what is set out in the collective agreement. If a collective agreement comes into effect with a more generous compensation rate than the 1 per cent increase contemplated here, will the Minister move to increase the compensation for non-unionized employees? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is that, if there was an agreement reached and the compensation was a bit higher than this, then we have the opportunity to adjust this particular number in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. TESTART: That is good to hear. I think it would be unfortunate if we had kind of a one-and-done approach to this issue, and fairness to employees of the public service is always first and foremost on my mind. Nothing further. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019, Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$59,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$59,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 5, Education, Culture and Employment. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$71,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, culture, heritage and languages, not previously authorized, negative \$150,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, early childhood and school services, not previously authorized, \$1,455,000. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, there is a line item here to provide funding for compensation increases under the NWT Teachers' Association Collective Agreement for \$694,000. Can the Minister tell me what the percentage change in the salary or compensation is for 2018-2019 that this is covering? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it was a four-year agreement. The first year was zero. The second year was zero. This year is 1 per cent, and that is reflective, I believe, in this supplemental request for \$694,000, and the fourth year is 1 per cent as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I believe in collective bargaining, as I have said before. I support an increase, whether it is for our non-unionized employees, as well as our unionized employees, and I really urge the Minister to get on with negotiations with our main union, the Union of Northern Workers. I have already been on record as supporting a CPI increase on an annual basis, and I think that is an appropriate offer that we should be making to our main union. Now is not the time to, perhaps, discuss that, but I support regular increases to our employees. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, early childhood and school services, not previously authorized, \$1,455,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, labour development and standards, not previously authorized, \$3,172,000. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, "to provide funding for the Canada-NWT Workforce Development Agreement" of \$3.1 million, is that money that has lapsed and is put back in the framework, or is it a new supplementary increase? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is that this is new money. The \$3.142 million is here, and over the next number of years, there will be additional investments as well.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, labour development and standards, not previously authorized, \$3,172,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$4,548,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to page 6, Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There is a line item here to basically, it looks like, transfer forest management leases from ENR to the Department of Infrastructure. Can I just have a little bit more explanation here? I have read the briefing material that was provided. Are these actually areas that are being harvested for forestry, or is this buildings that are being leased? I just can't figure it out, given the information that we have been provided. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is my understanding this is for buildings, and this is something the government has been doing for some time, trying to consolidate all of our lease payments under Infrastructure so that we can better manage them. These are two leases, one on the Hay River Reserve and one in Fort Smith, that we have leases for that are being moved from ENR's budget into a consolidated budget in Infrastructure. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$37,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, forestry management, not previously authorized, negative \$600,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, negative \$563,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On the next page, you will find Executive and Indigenous Affairs. Executive and Indigenous Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$131,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Executive and Indigenous Affairs, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$131,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. On to page 8, Finance. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Earlier today I asked for some clarification about the energy retrofit program for public housing, and I think what I got out of that was a number of units, but I am not clear what it means to retrofit these homes to make them more energy efficient. What is the criteria for the energy efficiency, and which of the homes will be retrofitted? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding of the retrofit of homes is to make them a bit more energy efficient. If that means replacing windows and insulation, putting some better heating systems in, that would be -- as far as the number of homes, I apologize. I don't have that level of detail as to what homes they are, and where they are located, but it is to support energy performance upgrades for 128 existing housing units in the Northwest Territories, and the conversion of 43 oil-fired heating systems in Yellowknife to biomass.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my quick math says that there is about \$10,000 available per home. I can tell you that, here in Yellowknife, \$10,000 would not give you new insulation, doors, and windows. You could pick one, and you might get that, but you certainly wouldn't get all of it. I am just concerned that this is not doing what it says it is going to do, and so any additional detail the Minister can round up would be much appreciated. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the Member's point spoke very well to the previous Member's point when they were speaking about infrastructure, and the \$304,000 for the new kitchen at the park is the cost of doing business in Yellowknife. I take the Member's point, and I will commit to providing more information, and we will check with the NWT Housing Corporation. They should have it broken down. I think that's in addition to all the other investments that they are making in energy retrofits across the Northwest Territories. I will commit to the Member that I will work with the Housing Corporation to provide a bit more detail as to locations, scope of work, and we'll share it with the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that commitment. Nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Finance, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$1,304,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Finance, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$1,304,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Please turn to 9. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, administrative and support services, not previously authorized, \$233,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$233,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Page 10. Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$48,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, economic diversification and business support, not previously authorized, \$7,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Industry, Tourism and Investment, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$55,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Turning to page 11, Infrastructure. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I asked some questions during the briefing about how we reconcile the amount of money that is being requested in the supplementary estimates here for the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund against what was actually applied for. Even with the information that has been provided since the briefing, I still can't figure this out. The original application that was submitted was first year money was, if I can find it here, was 2017-2018, and I don't know around \$2.4 million, and then, 2018-2019, \$7 million, and we are being asked to approve \$5.5 million. Are we going to get a reconciliation at some point about what this money is actually for, and how it is reconciled against what was applied for, and what our contribution is, and what the federal contribution is, and so on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, yes, we will provide some information to committee. The \$5 million my understanding is total investment because partially offset by revenues from the Government of Canada, so we can assume that they are giving us 75 per cent, and we are investing 25 per cent. We will reconcile all these numbers as to what is being used for works going, and we'll share that information with committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for that commitment. I think this is a good thing, and I do support the \$1,000,000 that is going into the housing retrofits, and that is the kind of investment in our low carbon economy that I can support. There is supposed to be increased funding for the Arctic Energy Alliance. I have been pleading with Cabinet for the last three years to increase the funding for the Arctic Energy Alliance, so finally, we're going to get some more money in there.

I would like to know from the Minister whether any of that funding is going to be dedicated to something called the Alternative Energy Technology Program, the AETP. The reason why I ask this is because Arctic Energy Alliance is already telling people now, two months into the fiscal year, that that program is already oversubscribed. I have been asking the Minister to increase that funding for the last three years. Is any of this money going to be dedicated toward that particular program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is there will be an additional investment in this year of \$250,000. Some of that money is going to the Energy Efficiency Technology Program. Then, looking at the numbers in future years, they are going to be getting another investment next year, right up to 2021-2022; \$300,000 next year; 350,000 the year after; and 350,000 the year after that. I take the Member's point. We hear more and more people switching over. If the money is lapsed in the first two months, then it is something that we will have to look at and try to address. There is going to be more investment into that particular area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate that information from the Minister, and look forward to the reconciliation. One area that I

am a bit concerned about is this active forestry carbon sequestration. What is that funding actually going to be used for? I think I saw in the briefing materials that some of it is going to be used to replant areas where there may have been fires, but it sounds like some of it is going to be used to replant areas that were supposed to be replanted after forests were harvested. We should be preventing that sort of thing from happening. If areas are harvested, whoever harvested should be responsible for reforestation. We shouldn't be using public funds for that. What is this money for the active forestry carbon sequestration going to be used for? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the funding will support reforestation, as the Member said, as well as efforts intended to maximize forest growth over the five years of the funding. One hundred and twenty hectares will be selected for forest regeneration, and 60 hectares will be selected for thinning. The funding is going to be administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and will be set out in the profile below. The total program cost is about \$1.333 million over the next four years. Thank you. Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that information from the Minister. Is any of this money being used to replant areas that were already planted once after forests were harvested? If so, doesn't that point to the need to improve our reforestation regulation? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are not exactly sure where the location is yet. I can commit to providing more information to the Members as it becomes available, but we take the Member's point. I will commit to provide him more information. I don't think the exact locations have been chosen yet. Maybe it is something we will have to work on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 11, we see an increase of \$344,000 for the Fort Liard Ferry. Could the Minister explain how this increase came about? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are asking for \$344,000 to extend the Liard River Ferry by two hours, 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., during 2018 ferry season to accommodate industry transportation requirement. The net effect on government operations is nil, as these expenditures will be fully offset by contributions from Enbridge. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The company came forward and asked to get these extra two hours? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I would have to give credit where credit is due here. The department is working with industry. I know this is Segment 21 that they are trying to fix and trying to get it done in a timely, cost-effective manner. I would like to thank the department and the government for working with the private industry and the community to expand those two hours. With these two hours, does this mean it is just strictly for the private industry, or is this actually opening for the general public, as well?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. I will remind all Members to let us know when you are done speaking so our audio team knows when to switch the microphones. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it is open to the public, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I apologize for forgetting to recognize the Chair after I finished my statement. Is the department actually tracking how many people actually access these extra hours? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the indication I got is, our infrastructure, they do track traffic that uses the ferry. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Will the department or the Minister make a commitment to actually share that information to the community and the Chamber of Commerce after it is all said and done? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I will have a conversation with the Minister of Infrastructure. A lot of the information that goes on within the government, we will share it with the Member, and then we will make a determination if that information could be shared with the community or not. We will share it with the Member first, and then we will have a discussion. We will go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. This question was asked before. The numbers were a little bit different. Is there a rationale why it is at \$344,000 instead of the number that was provided previously to the Chamber of Commerce, which was \$266,000? Is there a reason for the difference in cost? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am not sure of the first set of numbers that went to the Chamber of Commerce, but if this is a second set, then I would assume that this is a second set that was done after doing a bit more work on how much it going to cost to operate the ferry. I think they came up with \$344,000. I would think that would be the reason for that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for that clarification. The information is going to get out there, and they are going to be asking the question. Again, I thank the department and the Minister for providing the information on this. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Anything further from committee? Seeing none, I will call this. Infrastructure, operations expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$600,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$110,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, operations expenditures, programs and services, not previously authorized, \$5,506,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, operations expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$344,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Infrastructure, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$6,560,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Moving on to page 12, Justice, operations expenditures, services to government, not previously authorized, \$171,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Justice, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$171,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Lands, operations expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$33,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Lands, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$33,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$34,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, total department, not previously authorized, \$34,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree this concludes our considerations of Tabled Document 194-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 50-18(3):
CONCURRENCE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 194-18(3): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2018-2019,
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 194-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019 be now concluded and that Tabled Document 194-18(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in a formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion on the floor that is being distributed. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Thank you to the witnesses for joining us. I must say thank you to all the Pages, to all the translators, to all the Clerk staff in the back for sticking it out through this late-night session here. Mr. Beaulieu, what is the wish of committee?

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

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

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 193-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 2, 2018-2019, and Tabled Document 194-18(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2018-2019, and would like to report progress, and that consideration of Tabled Documents 193-18(3) and 194-18(3) are concluded, that the House concur on those estimates, and that appropriation bills to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 5: AN ACT TO AMEND THE SUMMARY CONVICTION PROCEDURES ACT

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act, be read for the third time, and Mr. Speaker, I request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Just for the record, the Member has requested a recorded vote. Member for Nahendeh.

MOTION 19-18(3): MOTION TO AMEND CLAUSE 2 OF BILL 5, AN ACT TO AMEND THE SUMMARY CONVICTION PROCEDURES ACT, CARRIED

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Clause 2 of Bill 5 be amended in the English version of the proposed section 1.1 by striking out "an administrative monetary penalty for the contravention of the bylaw" and substituting "an administrative monetary penalty regime applicable to contraventions of that bylaw." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The motion is in order. The motion is being distributed on the floor. To the motion. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion proposes a relatively small change in wording that was identified by committee immediately before the clause-by-clause review. As there was not time to draft and translate the motion without delaying the clause-by-clause review, the committee and the Minister agreed that it would be acceptable to move this motion in the House.

It appears that there was some misunderstanding about who would be moving the motion during the Committee of the Whole review, and it was not moved as a result. However, the committee feels that the clarity provided by this motion is desirable and that the bill should be amended prior to third reading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am seconding this motion because, as my honourable colleague said, the committee feels that the clarity provided is desirable and improves Bill 5. It is our duty, of course, as legislators to deliver the best legislation that we can. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. To the motion. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have nothing further to add to this at this time, but I wish to have a recorded vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. There is a request for a recorded vote. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): The Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Nunakput, 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, the Member for Hay River North, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Sahtu, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote: 17 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstentions.

---Carried

Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act, has been amended. Third reading of bills. Minister Sebert.

**BILL 5:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE SUMMARY
CONVICTION PROCEDURES ACT, AS
AMENDED**

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act, as amended, be read for the third time. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion on the floor. To the motion as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, with amendment, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): The Member for Thebacha, the Member for Hay River North, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Sahtu, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Nunakput, 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.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand. The results of the recorded vote: 17 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstentions.

---Carried

Bill 5 as amended has had its third reading. Third reading of bills. Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

LAW CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Holland):
Orders of the day for Wednesday, May 30, 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's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 6, Cannabis Legalization and Regulations Implementation Act
 - Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns
 - Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process
 - Committee Report 7-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations and Standing Committee on Social Development Report on the Review of Bill 6, Cannabis Legalization and Regulations Implementation Act

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Well done. Masi, Madam Clerk.
This House stands adjourned until Wednesday,
May 30, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

