



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Session**

**Day 6**

**17<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Monday, December 12, 2011**

Pages 123 - 158

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackie Jacobson**

(Nunakput)

---

**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

(Great Slave)

*Minister of Justice*

*Minister of Human Resources*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Public Utilities Board*

**Hon. Tom Beaulieu**

(Tu Nedhe)

*Minister of Health and Social Services*

*Minister responsible for*

*Persons with Disabilities*

*Minister responsible for Seniors*

**Ms. Wendy Bisaro**

(Frame Lake)

**Mr. Frederick Blake**

(Mackenzie Delta)

**Mr. Robert Bouchard**

(Hay River North)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**

(Weledeh)

**Mr. Daryl Dolynny**

(Range Lake)

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**

(Hay River South)

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**

(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**

(Monfwi)

*Deputy Premier*

*Minister of Education, Culture and*

*Employment*

*Minister of Public Works and Services*

*Minister responsible for the Workers'*

*Safety and Compensation*

*Commission*

**Hon. Bob McLeod**

(Yellowknife South)

*Premier*

*Minister of Executive*

*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and*

*Intergovernmental Relations*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Status of Women*

**Hon. Robert C. McLeod**

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

*Minister of Municipal and*

*Community Affairs*

*Minister responsible for the*

*NWT Housing Corporation*

*Minister responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Kevin Menicoche**

(Nahendeh)

**Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger**

(Thebacha)

*Government House Leader*

*Minister of Finance*

*Minister of Environment and Natural*

*Resources*

*Minister responsible for the*

*NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Alfred Moses**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Hon. David Ramsay**

(Kam Lake)

*Minister of Industry, Tourism*

*and Investment*

*Minister of Transportation*

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**

(Sahtu)

---

### Officers

**Clerk of the Legislative Assembly**

Mr. Tim Mercer

**Deputy Clerk**

Mr. Doug Schauerte

**Principal Clerk  
of Committees**

Ms. Jennifer Knowlan

**Principal Clerk,  
Operations**

Ms. Gail Bennett

**Law Clerks**

Ms. Sheila MacPherson

Ms. Malinda Kellett

---

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>123</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>123</b>
13-17(1) – Student Financial Assistance Review (Lafferty) .....	123
14-17(1) – NWT Sport and Recreation Council (R. McLeod).....	123
15-17(1) – Tourism and Parks (Ramsay).....	124
16-17(1) – Minister Absent from the House (B. McLeod).....	124
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>124</b>
High Occurrence of Cancer Diagnoses in Fort Good Hope (Yakeleya) .....	124
Extended Health Benefits for Cancer Patients (Dolynny).....	125
Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking) (Bisaro) .....	125
Christmas Celebrations at Mackenzie Delta Schools (Blake) .....	126
Support for Youth Programs (Moses) .....	126
Assessment of Public Housing Rental Rates (Bromley) .....	127
Visit of the Governor General of Canada to Hay River (Bouchard).....	127
Interim Dehcho Land Use Plan (Nadli).....	127
High Cost of Fuel in the Northwest Territories (Groenewegen) .....	128
Yellowknife Homeless Coalition and “Betty House” Transitional Housing for Women and Children (Hawkins) .....	128
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>129</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>129</b>
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>139</b>
1917(1) – Completion of an Anti-Poverty Strategy (Bisaro) .....	139
<b>MOTIONS</b> .....	<b>139</b>
18-17(1) – Setting of Sitting Hours by Speaker (Yakeleya).....	139
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>140</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>158</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>158</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, December 12, 2011****Members Present**

Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Dolynny, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Mr. Nadli, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, everyone. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 13-17(1):

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories Student Financial Assistance program last underwent a substantial redesign in the fall of 2000. Since then it has periodically been reviewed internally, resulting in increases to some benefits, such as tuition and book allowances, repayable loan monthly limits and the lifetime loan limit.

We have now started an independent review to determine if the basic grant, supplementary grant, remissible loan and repayable loan levels are at appropriate levels to assist students in pursuing post-secondary studies. There are approximately 1,400 students who access SFA on an annual basis.

The review will also ensure that the program contributes to this Assembly's goals and priorities in developing a healthy, educated workforce, and developing skills and resources to meet the needs of our northern communities.

In May 2011, Members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly provided feedback on the terms of reference for the review. The contract was awarded to Development, Planning, Research & Analysis Canada, and a steering committee has been formed, comprised of representatives from the Education, Culture and Employment income security and advanced education programs, Aurora College, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the ECE service centre in the Deh Cho region. There are five members in total on the steering committee. The working group, made up of ECE staff, has also been formed.

Consultations have involved current and past students, parents, Aboriginal organizations and other interested parties. To reach the broadest range of participants, the consultants used various methods, including telephone and face-to-face interviews, regional focus groups and on-line surveys. We will be reaching out to all NWT students for their feedback.

The information is being analyzed and compiled into a report that will be submitted to the department in the new year. I look forward to reporting the results to this House. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Robert McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 14-17(1):

NWT SPORT AND RECREATION COUNCIL

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide Members with an update on the way the NWT Sport and Recreation Council has improved access to quality physical activity, sport and recreation programs for all NWT residents.

Earlier this fall I met with the NWT Sport and Recreation Council executive to discuss their 2011-2012 funding program. We agreed that while there were some challenges with the process, in general the results were positive. More people are participating, and all sport and recreation organizations received more funding than they did in previous years. And accountability and efficiency standards have been introduced. In the future we can expect services to improve even further.

We also agreed that improvements to the 2012-2013 funding program should be explained to sport and recreation organizations early so that funding can begin to flow by April 1, 2012.

To facilitate this discussion, the council will convene a meeting of these organizations early in 2012. We will talk to them about their governance role as mandated by the department. We will confirm with each organization that they are a valued member of the sector, and outline their roles and responsibilities related to the SRC. We will also outline plans for implementing the SRC's goals and objectives and the new funding model for 2012-2013 and future years.

I will be speaking at the opening of the meeting to clearly state the department's goals for the sport, physical activity and recreation sector in the Northwest Territories.

These goals will improve the health and well-being of residents through increased physical activity, sport and recreation participation, and healthy lifestyle opportunities for NWT youth.

The NWT Sport and Recreation Council funding program for 2012-2013 will also include requirements related to the evaluation of programs and an overall reduction in administration costs.

Investing in sport, physical activity and recreation programs contributes to the health and well-being of all residents. It is important that we continue to invest in these priority areas, and that we provide organizations working with us a clear and concise understanding of the goals that they should be achieving.

I am confident that the NWT Sport and Recreation Council will improve their work in this area and along with their sporting partners continue to make a valuable contribution to the quality of life for residents in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 15-17(1): TOURISM AND PARKS

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, of all sectors, tourism presents the greatest likelihood of creating economic opportunities in each region, and for each community, especially in the smaller communities. Today I would like to talk about a few specific initiatives to grow tourism in the Northwest Territories.

We are now in the first year of Tourism 2015: New Directions for a Spectacular Future, the Government of the Northwest Territories' five-year tourism investment plan.

One of the first priorities under this plan was to establish an Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council. The council was formed this past July and has already made some progress establishing a strategy to grow Aboriginal tourism in the NWT. Planning is underway for an Aboriginal Tourism Champions Forum this spring. The forum will bring the Government of the Northwest Territories, the tourism industry and Aboriginal organizations together to explore ways to grow and develop the Aboriginal tourism sector.

The Tourism Product and Marketing Diversification Program has been highly successful over the past few years in creating and expanding world-class tourism products that attract visitors and increase their spending in the NWT.

The program helps tourism businesses to expand, diversify their product lines and market their businesses. This in turn helps them to diversify their businesses and creates new employment opportunities. Tourism businesses across the territory have benefitted greatly from this funding.

Well-trained tourism staff can deliver our products both professionally and knowledgeably. The new Tourism Training Fund will assist with short-term training to provide skills for someone to get a job in the NWT tourism industry or improve the skills of those already in the industry. The training also helps to ensure tourism operators have a workforce trained to meet their needs. They will cover up to 75 percent of the training costs for businesses or individuals engaged in nearly any tourism sector in the NWT.

We are also coming out of a successful summer parks season and tourism numbers were up again this summer. This is an exciting time for NWT parks, which host around 25,000 campers per year. Over half of the campers from outside of the territory are over age 55. This segment of the Canadian population will grow by 45 percent by the year 2021. This is an age group that loves to camp. Therefore, we can expect to see strong growth in demand for campgrounds over the next decade.

Tourism is a significant contributor to the NWT economy and brought in nearly \$100 million and 65,000 visitors this past year. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to continue the investment in new tourism products, marketing, support for the development of Aboriginal tourism, and maintaining our services and amenities in our parks and campgrounds.

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

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 16-17(1): MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Glen Abernethy will be absent from the House today to attend a meeting with the federal Attorney General in Ottawa.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### Members' Statements

##### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HIGH OCCURRENCE OF CANCER DIAGNOSES IN FORT GOOD HOPE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I did my constituency visits in the Sahtu at the end of November, the community that I went to was Fort

Good Hope. During my constituency meetings with the people in Fort Good Hope, a lot of speakers in my constituency spoke on the increase of cancer in that community. The people were saying that they're very afraid. It's very stressful for them. They're very worried that they may be the next one diagnosed with cancer. People are being diagnosed on a monthly basis. They are very concerned with what is going on, with what is happening. There are some very healthy people who have cancer. There are some very young people who have cancer.

People are crying out for help. There has been an increase of cancer deaths in the Northwest Territories. It has increased in Fort Good Hope. Eighty-six percent of Fort Good Hope cancers diagnosed were people aged 50 and older. The top cause of cancer in Fort Good Hope was colorectal.

I had young people in the public meetings crying because they know that their father or mother is going to die. I'm going to ask the Minister what type of specific support there is or what we can do to help the people in Fort Good Hope to deal with cancer, deal with the families, the communities.

There's a lot of sadness in Fort Good Hope because people are getting cancer at an alarming rate. They don't know if it's from the water, from the Mackenzie River or from the federal government buildings that are contaminated. They don't know what the heck's going on. They want answers. We need to provide support for the families and the young kids who are left to deal with the losses in their lives.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be speaking about the same topic as my esteemed colleague here, a very uncomfortable topic called cancer, as well.

One can only imagine the stress that one undergoes the moment one is diagnosed with this terrible condition. Most often the original diagnosis is done in faraway places like the Alberta Cross Cancer Institute and the patient is discharged with a limited supply of medication. The patient then returns to the NWT tired, confused, stressed and typically wanting nothing more than compassion and help. Many of these patients have no medical coverage or insurance, or limited coverage, and soon realize the problems that arise in covering the costs of expensive pharmaceuticals not covered by our Extended Health Benefits Program. Some patients are forced to pay for their drugs up front, sometimes amounting to several thousands of dollars, as they wait for program approval. Some

patients cannot afford to do this and those that do pay find themselves in financial crisis relatively quickly. I am also sad to say that some who cannot afford their therapy slip through the cracks of our systems, where their experiences are not monitored closely enough.

The other part of this domino effect is many patients require regular travel to get their treatments and find themselves out of pocket for those expenses not covered. Let's all keep in mind that many patients are off work for their treatments or are too weak or too sick to continue their employ. This has a further impact with less personal income to deal with all these financial burdens.

I am painting today a true picture for what a new cancer patient may experience. My question later today for the Minister of Health will be why is the Extended Health Benefits Program so slow at times to respond to these situations. We know, from experience, our provincial counterparts have created policies to fast track the application process for cancer patients. Yet, in the NWT we have no formal process in place. There is a clear indication the NWT needs to do a better job at eliminating these stresses from the lives of our cancer patients in this 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, and I seek the support of my colleagues to drive home this message. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING)

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few years we've heard increasingly about the mining process called hydraulic fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing, more commonly known as fracking, is a process where sand, water and chemicals are blasted into rock formations, such as shale, coal beds and tight sands, to gain access to trapped natural gas deposits. This injection process creates cracks in the rock formations and allows the gas to flow up the well.

Fracking has been linked to earthquakes in the United States, caused gas infiltrations into aquifers and, thus, several communities' water supply, created environmental contamination from the chemicals used in the process, has been banned in several Canadian jurisdictions, has been condemned by the Dene Nation, and last but not least, uses huge quantities of water.

The Council of Canadians opposes fracking because of its high carbon emissions, its high water use and the danger it poses to polluting groundwater and local drinking water. People living in communities where fracking projects are underway have reported health concerns and burning water where water from household taps

catches fire due to residual methane gas from the fracking operations.

At my recent constituency meeting, constituents expressed their concerns about fracking: the effect of fracking on permafrost – nobody's considered that; that we have no knowledge in the NWT of our groundwater – our aquifers are not mapped; and that we have little, if any NWT research on fracking. Now this process is likely coming to the NWT. It's already just across the southwestern border in BC and is being strongly considered for gas and oil extraction in the Sahtu.

I'm not against development. I'm not against the expansion and the growth of our economy, but I do feel we must temper any development with strong consideration of the effects it will have on our environment. So little is known about how the fracking process impacts the lands and peoples close to any development that uses it. I understand the Ministers of ITI and ENR are looking into these impacts and I'm very glad to hear that. It's of utmost importance that NWT residents know what we're getting ourselves into if we allow this process for oil and gas development.

The NWT may not be able to control approval of the development, but we can certainly do two things: one, take an active role in the environmental assessment process and be an intervener in any process; and, two, we can do the necessary research to understand the risks and the impacts that fracking will have on our territory.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** To quote the Council of Canadians: "We need the facts about fracks." It's the responsibility of a government to protect its people. This government must take the appropriate actions to do just that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT MACKENZIE DELTA SCHOOLS

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the students throughout the NWT attending school and preparing for their individual Christmas concerts. Our families enjoy gathering at the school and take pride in watching their children take part in many skits, the Christmas stories and the carolling throughout the evening.

In many of our communities it is the time to dress up in traditional clothing, new mukluks, new mitts and smaller traditional gifts from their mother,

grandmother or aunts. The highlight of the night is when Santa shows up with treats for everyone.

I would like to apologize to the staff and students at the Chief Paul Niditchie School, Chief Julius School and Moose Kerr School, all of which are preparing for their Christmas concerts on Wednesday evening. I will not be able to attend due to timing. However, I would like to extend my best wishes to all of the students. I know that they will make their families proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to make reference back to the Caucus priorities set forth by the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. One component that I personally thought was missing was the component to honour our youth, and, actually, it is really great to see a strong contingent of youth in our gallery today. I would like to take this opportunity just to reassure the youth of the Northwest Territories, and reassure all those organizations that do great work with youth in the Northwest Territories that it is on our agenda within certain departments, as you heard today in the Minister's statements by ECE and MACA, that we do have an invested interest in our youth and all the programs that are set forth throughout the year that I have been happy and very lucky to be a part of over the last couple of years working with MACA.

On that note, I would like to congratulate all the staff and hard workers of the Northwest Territories that work in sport, youth and volunteer programs throughout the Northwest Territories that put invested time and interest into our youth, that the GNWT is behind them and that we are going to be working with them. Such programs as, for instance here at the Ledge, we have the Page Program, which is very successful; and Northern Youth Ambassadors Program, which gives youth an opportunity to travel throughout Canada and internationally; and one of the more successful programs is the Youth Ambassadors Program, which has been very successful since its initiation into the NWT and through Municipal and Community Affairs.

I would just like to take this opportunity to let the youth know that we do stand behind them and that they are our future, and that when we invest in our youth, we are investing in our future that is going to create a new generation of healthy, educated adults as well as our future leaders of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING  
RENTAL RATES

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on the Housing Minister's statement on the Shelter Policy review and public housing rental assessment rates.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> last year, this Assembly called on the government to reduce the maximum rate for assessment of public housing rents from 30 to 25 percent of gross income. Yukon charges 25 percent of gross income and Nunavut has a sliding scale between 10 and 28 percent. As an example, public housing for a four-person household living on two minimum wage incomes in Detah pay \$1,200 per month at 30 percent, or about 40 percent of net income, leaving them about \$2,000 after taxes to meet all other monthly expenses. Even a 5 percent reduction would put \$200 back in that family's pocket as food, clothing, the ability to buy hockey gear or Christmas presents.

This Assembly has identified housing as a top priority. The Minister's statement last week reported that rent scale adjustment is one of the issues under consideration in the Shelter Policy review. That's good news and I'm going to be looking for downward movement on the maximum rate to at least 25 percent or even 20 percent, in line with our neighbours.

The Minister also spoke of the moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rental arrears and provided Members with information on the \$8 million in outstanding rents owed by 3,500 tenants. One lesson here is that while there are some who don't pay rent and should be made to, there are many for whom the 30 percent rate is just too high.

We have all heard the cases of people who are better off not working than taking two minimum wage jobs and seeing their rents skyrocket from \$32 to more than \$1,000. In communities where almost no one can own or privately rent a home, we have to recognize that access to housing is a public need no less critical than health care. We need a rent scale regime that is a sensitive mix of cost recovery, incentive to work and meeting the critical need for adequate, affordable and accessible housing.

I'll be asking the Minister questions on his new plans for development of just such a system. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
VISIT OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF  
CANADA TO HAY RIVER

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I proudly rise to thank the community of Hay River

for hosting the Honourable Governor General of Canada, Mr. David Johnston, and his wife. They were able to experience the great culture by visiting K'atlodeeche, and were able to visit with the leaders there and dance at the local community feast. They also had the opportunity to take a dogsled team ride with Mr. Danny Beck from Hay River.

The second day they were able to take a ride on the Great Slave Lake with a bombardier with one of our local fishers, Shawn Buckley, where they were able to pull a net and see the fishing industry in Hay River.

The couple then got to visit our Nordic facility in Hay River, where they were able to take themselves for a little ski as well as see the Arctic Winter Games trials for biathlon. Then the town hosted a meet and greet, where they were able to see some great performers, some youth, and receive a few gifts from the community. The Governor General also assisted with the promotion and revealing of a new sign for Brendan Green, Hay River's own Olympian.

So I would like to thank all the organizers of the Governor General's visit to Hay River. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
INTERIM DEHCHO LAND USE PLAN

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I highlight the Dehcho Land Use Plan, which the Dehcho First Nations, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories have been working on for the past decade. Government and industry view the Northwest Territories with great interest because of the vast potential for natural resources. Equally, Northerners look upon the beauty of the North as a gift of which we each have responsibility to maintain the integrity of the environment.

In the Deh Cho region, the Interim Measures Agreement signed in 2001 states the following:

"The purpose of the plan is to promote the social, cultural and economic well-being of the residents and communities in the Dehcho Territory, having regard to the interests of all Canadians."

With the completion of the interim Dehcho Land Use Plan, the parties can move beyond phase one negotiations, which will protect the land in the interim while negotiations move towards a final agreement.

In 2006 a draft land use plan was completed, but at that time governments did not support it because it set aside too much land for conservation and also it

was too complex to implement. Since then there have been efforts by all the parties to revise the Dehcho Land Use Plan by making changes to the regulatory mechanisms and zoning changes so that the Dehcho Land Use Plan could favourably be considered and reviewed by the parties.

There remain outstanding issues to move the Dehcho Land Use Plan forward. We all want to protect the land and also recognize a need for balance devolving for the Dehcho in the Northwest Territories.

I encourage all the parties to continue working and supporting the revision to the interim Dehcho Land Use Plan, and move it forward, and complete the course and help out the overall completion of the Dehcho process negotiations.

I will be raising questions in this regard later in the House today. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HIGH COST OF FUEL IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about the cost of home heating oil, diesel for vehicles, and gasoline in the Northwest Territories. In the last government we had a fairly keen focus on the cost of living. When we talk about the cost of living, certainly heating our homes and our businesses, driving our vehicles, snow machines, quads, mobile equipment, fishing, going on the land, all of these things are very much affected by the cost of diesel or gasoline. I don't think anyone could argue that these are very essential commodities everywhere, especially here in the North.

The Competition Bureau of Canada has commissioned studies on the relationship of crude oil prices to retail and wholesale gasoline prices. These studies have found that gasoline prices generally do track crude prices, but there can be a delay of up to two months before it decreases or increases and crude oil prices are passed along to the consumer. At the same time, some of those studies found that variations in crude oil prices are only one of the factors that influence retail prices.

I would like to suggest to you that when the price of crude goes up, there is no two-month delay in the price going up at the pump or with the truck that delivers your home heating fuel. I think that there are variables that do affect the prices from region to region. Jurisdictionally there are taxes that affect the price of fuel. There are transportation distances to get the product to market. There is the time of the purchase and the storage factor that needs to be taken into consideration; also the volume of sales. Certainly people who are retailing outlets that

sell less product with overhead will be passing on those overhead costs on a per-unit basis for what they sell.

This issue has been raised to me by my constituents who are curious. What their perception is, is that when the price of crude goes up, the price at the pump goes up; when the price of crude goes down, the price at the pump stays up. This is the perception.

I'd like to know if this government thinks that they have any role in the consumer protection function and that this government can play a part in analyzing this, studying this. We are a very captive market here. We don't have a lot of options when it comes to buying these products.

I'll have questions later today for the relevant Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON YELLOWKNIFE HOMELESS COALITION AND "BETTY HOUSE" TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When growing up I remember such youthful optimism around me from everyone when we always talked about the future. I'm reminded of this when I see in the gallery today so many young people here. I remember hearing from people about where they wanted to go, what they wanted to see, and certainly we always heard about what they wanted to be. However, I can never recall anyone ever telling me, or anyone, for that matter, that they wanted to be homeless. That's why today I want to recognize and certainly give great credit to the work being done by the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition.

As many of you in this House know, once built, the Betty House will roughly double the number of transition units for women and women with children here in Yellowknife. This is a significant endeavour and it will change the lives of many.

Approximately 150 women leave the Alison McAteer House every year and they need somewhere to go to help them get on their feet and move forward in a positive manner. The Betty House will create a safe and affordable housing opportunity to become a path for success to allow these women, and in some cases their children, to pursue a healthy lifestyle, get into the workforce and continue on with their life in a positive way.

The Betty House is an investment in people's lives; make no doubt about that. It will help the health and future of women and children in this community and territory. Betty House is a true example of the community responding to a community need. With

the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition leading this, I want to give particular note and appreciation to Dayle Hernblad, who is the coordinator of this initiative.

In the future the Betty House will be owned by the YWCA, but it couldn't be done without the support of the Government of Canada, the NWT Housing Corporation and most definitely the City of Yellowknife. I would be remiss without making mention of such notable partners as BHP Billiton and The Brick, who lent their support over the weekend.

In closing I want to say that the Betty House is not just building a building, it's also building a future for many Northerners who need a helping hand.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

At this time I would like to welcome from Ulukhaktok – not too often we get people in from Nunakput and this many, it's good to see. For the boys hockey is Alex Akhiatak, Elliot Malgokak, Bradley Olifie, Jarrett Kitekudlak, Jordan Kitekudlak, Brandon Okheena, and chaperone Kelly Nigiyok and chaperone Patrick Joss. For boys soccer was Troy Kataoyak and Tyson Klengenber. Girls soccer was Carmella Klengenber, Tamara Oloaryok, Papak Ekpakohak, Sydona Okheena, Shania Goose, Kendra Kudlak, and chaperone Mayor Janet Kanayok. Welcome to the House, everybody.

The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Patrick Joss. The committee has had many occasions to visit Ulukhaktok to do our business and on every occasion Patrick has been there to help out the committee. Thank you, Patrick.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to add my comments to Mr. Bromley's to recognize Patrick. Whenever we get to Ulukhaktok, he has always been there. Welcome to the kids from Ulukhaktok. You have a very beautiful community.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going on to my colleagues' comments, it's not very often that we do get a lot of youth of this magnitude in the House, into the gallery. I'd like to recognize all the

students from Ulukhaktok. Welcome to Yellowknife. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

I, too, want to thank Patrick Joss. He's a very committed volunteer and community leader in his community, not only Ulukhaktok but throughout the Beaufort-Delta region. He has helped out in a lot of things. Welcome to all the students.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize our visitors from Ulukhaktok and the Nunakput riding, specifically Patrick Joss. I know some other Members have talked about Patrick. He's a real ambassador for the community of Ulukhaktok and the riding of Nunakput and it's great to see him here in the House today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had an acknowledgement that I would like to address.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 6 on the Order Paper.

---Interjection

He didn't give notice?

---Interjection

Okay. Item 8, written questions.

---Interjection

Sorry. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 38-17(1):

WORKPLACE SAFETY CERTIFICATION

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently the City of Yellowknife launched a public news release to inform the public that they have now taken on the Certificate of Recognition program that they have been awarded with that accreditation. Asking for the COR program to be implemented in the Government of the Northwest Territories through the leadership of Public Works and Services here, I've been asking them for some time about when they will be bringing this program forward and implementing it when it comes to our contracting of services.

My question to the Minister of Public Works and Services is, quite simply, this: Does the Minister see the rolling out of the COR process, that's the Certificate of Recognition, happening any time soon and, if anything, can he point to a particular date

when we can start seeing that program implemented?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Jackson Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This area of COR competence, the safety factor has been discussed for numerous occasions now. It has been recognized through the Northwest Territories, as well, through various companies. These are discussions that we continue to have within Public Works and Services along within the GNWT as a whole. There are various partners involved, as well, whether it be WSCC and Public Works and Services and other companies as well. The safety factor plays a key role in all company businesses, so we will continue to have the dialogue with the organization.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Many businesspeople are taking the initiative to join the Certificate of Recognition program, the COR program, from across our territory from big communities to small communities. It's becoming a territorial initiative. To add one more, it's actually becoming a national trend where many jurisdictions, whether it's the provinces or even the federal government, are leaning towards this is the type of recognition that you need to have in order to apply for service contracts, construction works, et cetera. Recognizing that there's been a commitment from many small businesses here in the Northwest Territories working towards this, does the Minister see the GNWT implementing COR as a requirement in government programming when we go to tenders?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We deal with, as I stated, various companies. One of them is of course the Northern Safety Association, which we have a GNWT representative on there as ex-officio. As PWS we work in collaboration with the Department of Transportation and NWT Housing Corporation on developing a position as encouraging contractors to utilize these services. It is a northern-wide safety factor, COR competence.

As I stated, these are ongoing discussions that we are having. We recognize through all the organizations that have been highlighted as recipients of COR. We'll continue to work with them.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

QUESTION 39-17(1):

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. It's concerning the financial assistance program. One of the concerns I've heard of during the campaign

was that we are fully funding a lot of the students, which I recommend is a good idea, but we have no agreements to see any of those benefits. Some of the fully funded students get jobs in the South and there's no agreement for us to see any of their benefit in the North. Will the Minister see if that will be part of the review?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. That is the very reason why we're doing the overall review of the Student Financial Assistance. We want to hear from the students and community members, such as Hay River North and the general public. If there are issues or concerns or ideas or suggestions that can be brought forward, and this particular area of concern that has been brought by the Member will be highlighted as part of our discussion as we review the overall SFA.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Just one other question. My other question was an issue from one of the students in my constituency, who indicated that the core of the review for residency is fairly lengthy. Would the department look to streamline that process as well?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** It's not the first time we've heard that from a community member. That is part of the process that we need to discuss under the review. I hope that the general public and the particular individuals who may have some concerns, that they can raise that issue during the review process and that will be taken into consideration. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 40-17(1):

ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. They deal with his Minister's statement on Friday dealing with the Aboriginal Student Achievement update. He set out four priorities, and my question is dealing with the early childhood and child care priority that he has put into his priorities for the ASA achievement.

What's currently in place that he can provide us information on for early childhood and development programs throughout the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Within Education, Culture and Employment, early childhood has always been a priority for this government and it is a priority for ASA now. This is an area that has been a prime focus when we visited all five regions plus the Yellowknife region, so six regions; discussion on our priorities. Early childhood has always been at the forefront of our discussions. Within our department we provide various funding, whether it be the daycare operations, the workers and subsidizing those individuals that are in the child care programming, the Head Start Program. We have partnerships with the federal government as well. There are numerous, various different programs relating to early childhood and the child care services within our department. Mahsi.

**MR. MOSES:** We do know there are programs out there and we do know that it is a priority for the government and within the Department of ECE. My question specifically was what programs are in place for communities that don't have those programs and communities that need those facilities. What are the action steps that the Department of ECE is going to take within the next two years to make sure that those infrastructures are put in place so that people in our communities and children can succeed? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** As I stated, there are a number of programs within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Some communities may not have specific programming, but it is delivered through the regional programming officers as well. Just highlighting some of them is: Early Childhood Program administration operations and maintenance, Early Childhood Program, there are contributions in place within the communities; early childhood small communities initiatives; healthy children initiatives; Language Nest, Early Childhood Development Framework for Action. These are just some of the programs I've highlighted and there are a number of other programs that specifically relate to the communities and also to the regions. We will continue to increase those where it is badly needed. Mahsi.

**MR. MOSES:** Like I mentioned earlier, I do know there are programs out there, but in some of the communities and regional centres specifically, there is not enough infrastructure to house the number of youth that we're getting that need those programs. Moving forth with his Minister's statement last week, he did mention that one of his priorities were Aboriginal language and culture. However, there's nothing stating here in his next steps about increasing our Aboriginal and northern teachers within the Northwest Territories. As you know, we do have a high transition of workers in the Northwest Territories. I wonder what is his plan to create jobs in the Northwest Territories for Aboriginal and northern people.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, producing Aboriginal language teachers is also one of our top priorities, because we've heard from the forums that we've had on ASA, language immersion is their priority as well. We need to do that with qualified Aboriginal language teachers and language speaker teachers. With that, we've initiated the TEP program, ALCIP program through the Tlicho Community Services Agency a couple years ago. Now we're initiating that in the Beaufort-Delta. The next step is also on the Hay River Reserve. Those teacher education programs and Aboriginal language instructors programs are being initiated as we speak. We need to reach out to those regions and to the communities and that's what we're doing. Mahsi.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Minister, for your answer on that question. In terms of your priorities – and I do know that the ASA does provide funding to all the communities – you mentioned that there were five communities that received funding this year. How were those communities chosen to receive that funding?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, there may only be five communities at this time but we're looking at the other communities as well. It is based on the committee that has been formed and established. There is a steering committee that consists of various groups and they make recommendations to my attention and we move forward on those initiatives. We have to keep in mind that we have to deal with all 33 communities, and the five communities I think is a good start. We need to work with other communities as well. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 41-17(1):

SHELTER POLICY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT  
OF PUBLIC HOUSING RENTAL RATES

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. I'd like to follow up on my statement earlier today. My colleagues and I have spoken in the past about including more creative mechanisms in our collection of rents in communities. With few jobs, the lack of wage opportunities could be offset by allowing tenants to reduce their rent by, for example, supplying wood for the community or public housing, or giving their labour in maintaining and repairing houses. I'm wondering if the Minister can say if such options are being examined in the Shelter Policy review that's currently underway. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is quite correct; there has been some input as to how we can be creative in allowing people to take care of their arrears or pay on their arrears. There have been some cases in the past where this has happened, and it's something that I can assure the Member and all Members that it's something that we are looking at to find ways. I mean, obviously there are going to be other issues, but we have to sort through those and try to find common ground that will work for both tenants and the local housing authorities. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate the response from the Minister. I will look forward to the results there. It's my understanding that under the current funding arrangements, local housing organizations who do not meet their rent recovery targets lose operating funds equivalent to the amount of uncollected rents. This is a very retrograde approach, because whether they collect rent or not, their costs of providing housing don't go down. It only digs a pit of debt, and I realize there's a balance here. Can the Minister say whether the options being considered in the Shelter Policy review include the possibility of disconnecting rent collection from operating funds allocation? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we ask all our LHOs to meet a specific target – usually it's around 90 percent – and that would allow them to do the work that they have the money to do the work; the revenue could do the work that they need. As far as taking money back for rent not collected, I would have to follow up on that because I'm not sure if we really do that, but we do set a specific target and it's an internal target that the LHOs try and reach so that they're able to generate enough revenue to help with their repairs and that they need. But I'd have to follow up on the Member's second point and I don't really think that we do that. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Again, I appreciate the Minister's response and commitment to looking into that and getting me that information.

My next question is the Nunavut Housing Corporation has some interesting features, one of which I mentioned: a sliding scale for maximum rent from 10 to 28 percent. Another feature is that rent is re-evaluated annually on September 1<sup>st</sup>, to account for changes in income. Income is based on the previous tax year. Many beneficial factors worth consideration must go along with that, and I'd be intrigued on what those might be. Will the Minister look at what the options are and/or, perhaps more directly, are these being considered in the current Shelter Policy review that is underway? Mahsi.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We have had internal discussions on doing the assessments on an annual basis based on last year's tax receipt, as the Member has stated. One of the drawbacks is if they work in previous year and not work in the current year, they would be assessed on their rent or their tax or earnings from the last year so that may put them in a difficult position, but it is something that we are looking at.

We are looking at either doing an annual or a biannual basis. Feedback that I have had in some of my conversations with the LHOs, the assessment per month probably works best for the tenant and it would allow them to declare their income. It is something that we are looking at. We are looking at all different ways we can make providing housing and the assessments and that a lot easier for the LHOs and for the clients. This is all part of the Shelter Policy review. We are looking forward to the opportunity to meet with committee and go through some of the recommendations and options and get some feedback from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed the Minister focused on the one negative of the Nunavut side of things. The income may be different but, of course, one would hope that over time a family's income rises rather than goes down, in which case it would actually be a benefit in allowing them a little adjustment time.

The Minister has heard me cite the commonly heard case of people refusing work to avoid radical increases in rents. In carrying out the Shelter Policy review, can the Minister give information on what other more flexible models are being examined? What options are available for adjustment of the rental rate regime? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I didn't focus on the one negative; I'm just not sure how it would best apply to residents in the NWT. Obviously we know the challenges that Nunavut Housing is facing with the debt that they have. Ours is nowhere near that. It's not even close. I'm just trying to focus on what I think would work best for the people we serve on this side of the North.

I can assure the Member that one of the things we've heard – and I think all of the MLA candidates heard as they were going through the campaign – was: "I don't want to work because my rent is going to go up." It is one of the most important reasons I think we undertook this Shelter Policy review, is to see if we can find ways to assist those people that are trying to work.

I am running out of liberty to say too much right now on the work we've done. I need to meet with committee, go through the recommendations and

options with committee, and then we can roll it out to the public. I am positive that this will be well received by both Members and people across the Northwest Territories because this answers a lot of concerns that they have had in the last number of years. We are looking forward to rolling it out.

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

QUESTION 42-17(1):  
INTERIM DEHCHO LAND USE PLAN

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I made a statement on the Dehcho Land Use Plan. My question is directed to the Premier. What is the Government of the Northwest Territories prepared to do to help move the Dehcho Land Use Plan forward so that it could be completed?

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We think land use planning is a good thing, and it helps with planning for development in the Northwest Territories and also to protect areas of environmental importance.

We as a government have been working since the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to develop a land use framework for our government. We are continuing to work on that. I think the work that the Dehcho has been doing on the land use plan has been very good. I think the past chair will be very difficult to replace. I think that we are getting very close. As a government, we want to work with the Dehcho First Nation and the federal government to develop a real worthwhile and a forward looking land use plan that we can all work together from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NADLI:** I just want to ask the Premier: Is there any follow-up on what it is we can do in terms of helping out the process? How is this government planning to ensure that the success of the interim Dehcho Land Use Plan is completed? Mahsi.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I think there are a lot of ways that we can work together. I think that with the advent of devolution and one of the things that the Government of the Northwest Territories wants to ensure is that lands that have not been selected by the Dehcho that there is some potential economic development that can be undertaken. I think that the areas that are of importance to the Dehcho First Nation, we want to work with them and the Government of Canada to make sure that they are clearly identified. We also want to make sure that there are lands available for land selection by the communities and the Dehcho when it comes down to it, because there are lands being set aside for protected areas. There are still lands that have to be identified by communities. We will work consistent with the Dehcho Land Use Plan in terms

of reference with all of the main players to see if we can advance this fairly quickly.

**MR. NADLI:** My final question is to the Premier. Is there a timeline in terms of perhaps concluding the Dehcho Land Use Plan? I realize there have been a lot of discussions and pull towards concluding the Devolution Agreement. Will the Premier assure other First Nations, including the Dehcho First Nation, that their agreements would take precedence before the Devolution Agreement? Mahsi.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As a government, we are reaching out to all Aboriginal governments to establish good working relationships, and I think this is the kind of area that we think we can use to advance our working relationships with the Dehcho First Nation to work on the Dehcho Land Use Plan. I guess ideally we would like to see something happen within a year if that's possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 43-17(1):  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF  
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING)

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement I talked about the effects of fracking. The consequences of fracking as a development process are becoming more and more evident within Canada and throughout North America. We are starting to become more and more aware of some of the consequences.

My questions are addressed to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. I would like to ask the Minister what the GNWT is doing to educate itself, its residents and other orders of NWT governments about the effects of fracking. I have to say again that we need the facts on fracks. I would like to know whether or not we are engaging in any research. What are we doing to find out about fracking and the effects it will have on us? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for the question. Obviously this is an issue that we are paying close attention to. Fracking is a practice that has been utilized in Canada since 1990. I think the Member referenced it being banned in some provinces and territories in this country. To my knowledge, that hasn't happened. It is currently suspended in the province of Quebec, pending environmental review, but to my knowledge it hasn't been banned in any other province or territory in this country.

I would agree with the Member; I think we have to separate fact from fiction when it comes to fracking and its future utilization in our territory, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** We need to separate frack from fiction, do we? Thank you to the Minister for the comment, but I would like to know what we are doing as a government. Are we engaging in any research? Are we looking into the effect that fracking will have on our northern environment because it is different from other environments? I would like to know whether there are any plans on the part of this government to do some serious research, and once that's done, to then educate other governments and our residents about it. Thank you.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** There's certainly a lot of potential in the Northwest Territories, both in oil and gas development. In the Sahtu region, certainly across the river from Norman Wells there's a lot of potential there for oil where fracking could be utilized to extract that oil.

We need to work with the regulators, the NEB. We need to work with AANDC, the federal government and ourselves to come up with a plan. Currently – I know my colleague Minister Miltenberger spoke of this the other day – there is a plan in place to coordinate efforts, to reach out to communities, and it will start in the Sahtu to let people know what fracking is, how it works and what the potential pros and cons of such activity are on the environment. Also, there are economic benefits too.

So I think the balance and weighing those things out will be something that communities across the Northwest Territories will have an opportunity at some point in the near future to have the opportunity to comment on. I can see that type of program reaching out to other communities across the Northwest Territories, but for the immediate future it's going to start in the Sahtu in the new year. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I didn't hear much about research. I heard we're going to look into it; we're starting in the Sahtu. I think it's important that we consider that it's not just the Sahtu; it's undoubtedly going to end up in the southwestern corner of our territory. So I would urge the Minister, with the Minister of ENR, to go well beyond just the Sahtu.

One of the things that I mentioned in my statement is that I believe it's a responsibility of government to protect residents, and one of the things that I think we can do as a government, if we feel that there are implications for a particular development, is to act as an intervener in an environmental assessment process. So I would like to know from the Minister whether or not this government will take that role and act as an intervener in an

assessment process, should that development come to that. Thank you.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** That's common business practice for us to act as an intervener in environmental assessment. So, going forward, that would be the case. Certainly the more information we have on fracking, the research... I know the department is following it close as are the folks at ENR. We need to know exactly what we're dealing with and we're fully intent on finding out what fracking is and, again, weighing the pros against the cons, the economic benefits versus protecting the environment. I think at the end of the day we've got a regulatory process in place here in the Northwest Territories that's going to allow us to do just that.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. I was pleased to hear the Minister earlier say that there will be an opportunity for residents to provide some input, and that's, I think, a large concern for me and also for many constituents. What avenues will there be in sort of a specific sense for residents to direct their concerns to the government so the government will know what individual residents and/or community governments feel about the process of hydraulic fracturing? Thank you.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you. I would envision the type of outreach and educational program that's going to be looked at for communities is going to be something people can understand. It's going to be at a level where people can get a better understanding of what fracking is. As far as residents in the Northwest Territories wanting to provide input, that opportunity, if the meetings get to communities across the territory, people will have that opportunity to provide their input. Again, I think we need to get all the facts on the table and chart a course justly. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 44-17(1):  
EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS AND CURRENT  
INFORMATION FOR CANCER PATIENTS

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two questions today for the Minister of Health. Earlier today I indicated in my Member's statement the need to create a better fast-track policy with extended health benefits as it pertains to newly diagnosed cancer patients. Can the Minister of Health please share with this House if there is a policy in place or a draft that deals with a better system for fast tracking cancer drug coverage?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. NWT health insurance pays and approves the cost of cancer therapies provided to the clients, and the department works closely in partnership with Alberta Health Services, in particular the Cross Cancer Institute, to provide the services to residents of the NWT at this time. Thank you.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Obviously at a later time I'll be talking to the Minister, probably in closed quarters, to get more information on that.

The second part of my question has to do with what we've heard earlier today by my esteemed colleague from the Sahtu regarding his people having increased incidents of colorectal cancer and their concerns, but all of our citizens are worried about the increase of cancer cases in the NWT. Current information is not readily available to the public. The last report from the Health and Social Services, called "Cancer in the Northwest Territories 1990-2000: A Descriptive Report" is over 10 years old and very out of date. We are informed the Department of Health and Social Services has a new report covering 2000-2010 but has yet to be released.

Can the Minister of Health indicate to the House when this document will be available so the residents know what's going on with cancer? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The department will be publishing the report which covers 2001-2009, actually. The report is scheduled to be released in 2012, the earlier part of 2012 is my hope, and the information will cover such things as cancer incidents, mortality, cancer screening and also the stages of cancer diagnosis.

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

QUESTION 45-17(1):  
SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES  
OF CANCER PATIENTS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke in my Member's statement that in my meeting with the people in Fort Good Hope all of the speakers talked about the number of cancer-related diagnosed community members and the different sources that possibly cancer could be coming from. The most heartbreaking comments were from young people in the communities on the ones who are the surviving members of cancer. So I wanted to ask the Minister what type of support can be given to the people in Fort Good Hope or the family members who have to deal with the loss of their loved ones due to the number of recent cancer deaths in that community.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Grieving families of individuals who have passed away from cancer can get client counselling from the community counsellors. Also the access through how they can obtain community counsel to deal with the grieving of loved ones through cancer can be arranged through the community health nurse. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** There's an author that's renowned for her work with death and cancer, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, and she talks about dealing with grief, and the general normal grief process takes about two years for the person to go through the whole grief cycle. Of course, with our Aboriginal people we have our own cultural grief ceremonies.

I wanted to ask the Minister, because there are so many deaths in Fort Good Hope, is there any way that his department can find a dedicated person to come to Fort Good Hope, stay in Fort Good Hope, and deal with the hundreds of people that are affected by one cancer death or two cancer deaths or three cancer deaths rather than to go and seek counselling services in the community. I want a dedicated person to deal with the cancer deaths in the community and have someone there on a full-time basis.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** At this time our intention was to have the chief medical officer go to Fort Good Hope to meet with the people there. I know I have talked to the chairman of the Sahtu Health and Social Services Board and she's interested in myself, along with some departmental staff and the MLA to go to the Sahtu and travel to all the communities, including Fort Good Hope, and maybe from that type of discussion could evolve into something that is more focused on this particular issue.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I certainly look forward to that trip with the Minister. One of the speakers in my meeting said living in Fort Good Hope is stressful and scary. You don't know if your number's next and you're going to be the one told that you have cancer. It's very tragic and painful to listen to young people sit in front of you and cry and say my mom or my dad has cancer. I know they're not going to live long and they're going to die.

I'm asking the Minister if he will start plans or look at plans to have somebody come into Fort Good Hope and sit with the living members of someone who has died of cancer or people who have recently been diagnosed with cancer and work with them, just like the book I quoted earlier from Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, and talk about death and dying and help our people. Can the Minister look at some plans to look at that type of initiative? This is what the people are telling me and I don't think I need the Minister to hear exactly what I'm already

telling him. Can the Minister work on some earlier plans?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The cancer rates across the Northwest Territories have gone up. Between 1992 and 2009, cancer rates are 162 cases per 100,000 to an increase of 283 cases per 100,000. In Fort Good Hope it is a bit higher but it is not significantly higher than that particular NWT number. It's 331 cases per 100,000. That doesn't mean we don't want to focus on the issue. As the Minister, I would be prepared to discuss some sort of strategy to address the issue of all of the people in the Northwest Territories that have loss through cancer and try to address that issue in a more across-the-board way.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people in Fort Good Hope have asked me why they have to yell so loud for help. Recognizing there are a lot of cancer deaths in the Northwest Territories, my people in Fort Good Hope in the last month have three more who have been diagnosed with cancer. That's three more families that are affected right now. They are asking for help. Why do they have to yell so loud to this government to say bring somebody in? Let them work with the families. Let them work with the young ones. Let them understand what death and dying is all about and how hard it's going to be for them. Can the Minister work on some early plans, look at his department and say that we can dedicate some funds to help the people in Fort Good Hope to deal with cancer, especially on death and dying?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** In Fort Good Hope between 2001 and 2009 there's been 19 cases of diagnosis with cancer and there are 980 cases of cancer diagnosis across the NWT.

I'm not saying we don't want to do this in Fort Good Hope; all I'm saying is it would be good for the department and it would be feasible for the department to develop a strategy that addresses the issue right across the Territories and not specific to one community.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 46-17(1):  
STATISTICAL REPORTING OF  
CANCER RATES IN THE NWT

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to sound uncompassionate about the issue of families who suffer and grieve with members who have cancer and eventually succumb to cancer, so that Members don't think that I'm uncaring, I was 27 years old when my mother died of cancer. She was 57 years old. Ten years ago, when I was the

Minister of Health, our cancer rates in the Northwest Territories, believe it or not, were less than the national average. We know everybody, we come from small communities, so it seems like it's higher sometimes. If we are going to put out new statistics on cancer rates in the Northwest Territories, surely we need to do that with a backdrop of how much we smoke, how much we drink, what our diets look like, how much we exercise, and hereditary factors are also huge in getting cancer. If we're going to put out statistics, we have to be real as a government, as well, and include information on those statistics as a backdrop to our cancer rates. Does the Minister of Health and Social Services agree that that can be done?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cancer rates across the Territories of the various cancers, like colorectal cancer is at 24 percent, breast cancer is at 17 percent, prostate is at 14 percent and lung cancer is at 10 percent. Some of those cancers obviously are tied to lifestyle; some are tied to other factors. It could be water, as Mr. Yakeleya indicated. The intention is that when we do put a report out, it will cover all of the cancers across the territory and if smoking is a big factor in the cancer rates across the Territories, then, yes, it will be indicated in the report.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** When we do put out statistics as a government on this, I'm saying is it is a standard practice to also include in those statistics the kinds of indicators as I have listed in my previous question, or does that information, as Mr. Beaulieu listed the different types of cancer in the Northwest Territories and so on, come out as a package so that people get the picture or is this something that is just listed without, absent of those other indicators?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The entire department is trying to get more into prevention and when we put out reports and it's necessary to indicate that the cause of this cancer is this or the human behaviour here is causing this type of cancer, then that can be something that we are working on. Whether or not the causes of each of the types of cancer are going to be specifically indicated in the cancer report that we're going to be bringing out in 2012, I haven't seen the report so I don't know if that information will be there. But, yes, we are trying to get the message out. That's the idea, is to get the message out to people that smoking does cause cancer. I think that's very clear and our intention is to point out those factors each time we're dealing with the issue of cancer or other sicknesses like diabetes.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Some people are going to get sick regardless of how hard they try to be

healthy and how good their habits are, but there is also a huge element for personal responsibility and a lot of people out there in the public don't like it when we as a government talk about personal responsibility. They don't want to hear about it. When I was Health Minister I went to a community that sat there, gathered, told me about their water source, how it was no good, and I think every single person in the meeting drank three cans of Coke while we were in this meeting. They talked to me about diabetes and water source and how horrible it was. We have got to get clear messages so that people know we have choices to make. I'm not saying I'm perfect and I'm not saying any of us are perfect, but is there a way that we can spend more money to enhance the message about personal choices?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** There is a way and we are working with the various health authorities across the Territories. We're going to work with the boards, the public administrators, the CEOs of all of the health and social services across the territory to get that message out. To get the message out that says these are some of the causes of the sicknesses that are occurring across the territory. That's why when we say we're moving into prevention, with prevention is promotion and communication with people in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 47-17(1):

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment following up on his Minister's statement this morning on Student Financial Assistance review. I just want to start by confirming that this review will indeed include some additional support for upgrading as per the Minister's commitment in earlier discussions in the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to Student Financial Assistance it is a subsidy for post-secondary institutions, so college and university. In cases where upgrading has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions but there are other programs and funding, whether it be from local organizations or federal, there is also federal funding that individuals can access. I'm sure this particular area will be brought to our attention through the SFA review. Any concerns or issues that will be brought forward will be considered through the review process.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate the Minister's response there. The previous Minister of ECE did indeed commit to including the upgrading in this review, so I'm assuming that it will be done.

The second one I would like to confirm is happening is there's a well-known deficit and need for veterinarians in the Northwest Territories. The Sahtu has a particularly unique and fortunate agreement, I think with the support of Environment and Natural Resources, if I recall, with the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon to occasionally bring up veterinarians. Most of the NWT suffers from a great lack and there are a few outstanding individuals who are expressing a desire to go out for that training. This has been brought up again with regard to this review. I'd like to again confirm that this review will include consideration of the provision of a seat for a veterinary student from the Northwest Territories. That's beyond a vet assistant. It's specifically for a full-fledged veterinarian so that we can build our veterinarian staff in the NWT from the one or two that there currently is.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** When it comes to this particular program, it has been in the works for a number of years now. I believe there has only been uptake of one or two over the last several years. We did have a guaranteed seat within the GNWT for this particular veterinarian training through the college. It is upwards of \$25,000 for the one particular program. It is somewhat expensive. At the same time there has been little uptake on this particular program.

Again, if this is an interest from the general public as a whole, then we can certainly consider it through our review process as we move forward.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you for that response. My understanding is that, indeed, we have not had that opportunity the last few years and, thus, it is not surprising that there have not been updates, but I'd love to stand to be corrected on that.

My third question is: Looking at the composition of the steering committee working on this review, I don't see any representation from user groups. I think that's something we always want to include when we have a steering committee. Why is there not representation from user groups, a student association or something like that on this steering committee for the Student Financial Assistance review? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This particular review has been undertaken for the last couple of months now and we will be going through until next year. We're at the preliminary stages, so those are options that I can certainly take into consideration. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that from the Minister, and I think it would be great if it was just routine practice from now on that we include a member from the public.

My last question, Mr. Speaker. I see the Minister is bringing it forward to submit in the House and, again, I'm hoping this is standard practice but I'd like to confirm. Will the committee have an opportunity to review and comment on this report so that the Minister can consider their input before it is tabled in the House? Mahsi.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** With any review that's been undertaken by the GNWT, it's always been brought to the standing committee for their review as well. Once the report is finalized we really can't speak to specifics until the committee is under review, and then we can open it up for a general discussion to the general public. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 48-17(1):

ADDICTIONS TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE  
IN THE BEAUFORT-DELTA

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question also is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It's dealing with our priorities set out by the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, enhancing addiction treatment programs using existing infrastructure. To date, with our priorities, has the Department of Health set up an inventory to begin identifying any of the existing infrastructure that are currently available to accommodate treatment programs specifically in the Beaufort-Delta region? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GNWT has not looked at the current inventory for the possibility of using our inventory for treatment facilities. However, I think I should clarify that the intention, I think, is that we would look at what we have in place now for health and social services for treatment as opposed to building new infrastructure. So the idea of looking at current infrastructure was more or less looking at what infrastructure we had on the ground now as opposed to building something new. Thank you.

**MR. MOSES:** I understand that we're not looking at building any new infrastructure, especially with the situation that the GNWT is in. However, I'd like to see an inventory of the buildings that are not being used right now in the Beaufort-Delta that can house such treatment programs for the people that are going through the system and don't have that

opportunity to get those services that they need. Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The Department of Health recognizes that there are a couple of facilities in the Beaufort-Delta that were previously used for treatment facilities and we are prepared to look at the feasibility of using those for treatment centres as we go through our inventory of existing infrastructure. Thank you.

**MR. MOSES:** In some of the other departments, the Department of Justice, they have a really good diversion program. The Department of ECE has a really good on-the-land program. Has the Department of Health looked at these successful programs and thought about implementing them in the treatment sector for both the youth that are battling addictions as well as adults that are battling addictions, to create an on-the-land treatment program within the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The Department of Health and Social Services supports different alternatives to getting people to on-the-land activities. We have made \$50,000 a year available to all of the communities if they want to do some on-the-land activities. It's been a request from the communities and I've asked the Department of Health and Social Services to look at the possibility of developing on-the-land treatment programs across the North. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final supplementary, Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services, for that answer. My last question is in regard to the same thing with the programming. We have a lot of programs for people that are institutionalized. We have a lot of programming for people who are incarcerated in the Northwest Territories. There is a really good article about it today in the News/North. For those that aren't in those institutions or that are in the community that are suffering and aren't getting those services, what are the programs in place for those individuals in the communities? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** At this time we have within the communities – I'm not sure if it's all 33 communities – addictions counsellors and also some mental health counsellors at the community which we talked about a little bit last week. But we do have addictions counsellors. That would be a good place for individuals hoping to access, whether it's residential treatment in the facility or hoping to work with a counsellor to get some sort of programs on the land that could be available through the various non-government organizations or community governments across the territory. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 49-17(1):  
HIGH OCCURRENCE OF CANCER  
DIAGNOSES IN FORT GOOD HOPE

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to get back to my question with the Minister of Health and Social Services on the cancer in Fort Good Hope. The Minister gave us some numbers, and according to those numbers cancer in Good Hope is pretty high; 20 percent higher than my numbers here than in the rest of the territory, such as colorectal cancer is 24 percent in Good Hope while the territory is 20, breast cancer is 17 in Good Hope and in the territory it's 16, prostate cancer is 9 percent in the territory, and so forth.

I want to ask the Minister is his department willing to look at any type of research from the community to look at what the heck is going on with the community of Fort Good Hope. Why is the cancer so high? Where are the sources? There are a lot of opinions out there and people are afraid and they're scared. They're scared to drink that water from the water reservoir. They're scared of the Norman Wells oilfield. They're scared of the federal government buildings that are condemned right now. There are a lot of things that are scaring people right now in Fort Good Hope. Can the Minister work with me to look at a research funding institution to go into Fort Good Hope and find out what is going on with the cancer issue? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, yes, the Department of Health and Social Services is prepared to look at research with health and social services from the Sahtu. I have no problem doing that. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I just about choked in here. I didn't know what to say. The Minister said yes right away.

I want to ask the Minister how soon he can work with us to get a research institution into Fort Good Hope to start the process of elimination of the types of cancer that are causing so much grief in the community of Radili Ko?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I am aware that the department has a lot of work on the go now at this time, but I am prepared to talk to the senior management to try to get this going as soon as possible. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has promised to take action to address the

low employment rate in our small communities with large projects. In Aklavik the employment rate is 36 percent. That is below the territory's average, which is 67 percent. There is simply more people who need work than there are jobs, but we do have one project that is on our government's red flag priority list A. That is the all-weather access road to the Willow River gravel source.

Honourable Premier, when will construction begin on this project during the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. It is not a written question. I will get back to you, Mr. Blake, later today. We will run it by our staff.

Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 19-17(1):  
COMPLETION OF AN  
ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the Government of the Northwest Territories work with business, organizations and those living in poverty to complete an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Northwest Territories;

And further, that the Anti-Poverty Strategy identify specific measurable targets with clear cross-departmental mechanisms for coordination and integration of actions;

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Motions

MOTION 18-17(1):  
SETTING OF SITTING HOURS BY SPEAKER,  
CARRIED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Speaker be authorized to set

such sitting days and hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with the business before the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-17(1), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-2013. By the authority given to me as a Speaker by Motion 18-17(1), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before us in the House, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. There is one issue on our agenda today. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Madam Chair, Committee of the Whole requests to continue Tabled Document 2-17(1), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-2013. More importantly, we would like to work today on Public Works and Services; Education, Culture and Employment; and Health and Social Services.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you. We will commence with that after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. As per the committee's wish, we are going to deal with the capital budget for Public Works and Services; Education, Culture and Employment; and Health and Social Services.

I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services, the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, if he would like to call witnesses with him to the witness table. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, I do, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. I will ask Members if they can be thinking about any general comments that you have with regard to the capital budget for Public Works and Services.

I'd like to ask Mr. Lafferty if he would like to please introduce his witnesses for the record. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. To my left is Paul Guy, deputy minister of PWS; and also John Vandenberg, director of petroleum products division.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. General comments on this department's capital budget. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I find this department intriguing and interesting, working in an area that has definite challenges but real clear opportunities. One of the opportunities and good work that's being done is the adoption of the building standards; it's 25 percent better than the Model National Energy Building Code, if I've got that term right. I appreciate that. The opportunity I see is to spread that to our communities, ideally starting with our Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. I'm wondering what opportunities this department has taken in working to get their sister department MACA up to speed on this.

The other area that I see this department doing a lot of good work in is the adoption of renewable energy, in almost every case at cost savings. Again, good work in developing a revolving fund which captures the benefits of this work, the savings from this work, and reinvests this on behalf of the taxpayers and the residents of the Northwest Territories into a fund to continue that good work. That's another opportunity that I see for other departments, if this department could work to spread that cultural knowledge.

One of the big ones I've talked about quite a number of times is the opportunity to undercut the need for very expensive fossil fuel containment and storage. Again, these often run in the millions of dollars, as I suspect they do this year. Whenever there are clear opportunities to reduce the need for those fossil fuels, and similarly reduce the need for the very expensive storage and containment that that engenders. Of course, I'm not sure what the department has been able to achieve in this area because I only see the activity when they do build new containment and so on. There it is clear when it is community structures that they have not done the work that I feel they have the opportunity to do in concert, of course, with their sister departments and the communities themselves. The reason I speak on this is because we do have broad

government goals of new employment, a revved up local economy in our small communities as well as our large communities, the overall reduction in cost to government, and of course the reduction in environmental costs, especially today, as we know from all the science, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

I just want to take this opportunity; I will be bringing these points home with some specifics as we go through division by division here today. I did want to be sure to again compliment the department, and urge them to continue and spread the cultural knowledge that they're developing. I will be asking again for, if it's possible, a summary as we have been provided in past years of the greenhouse gas savings, the reduction in the costs or the financial savings, and any information that the department collects in terms of the employment and the development of the industry of renewable energy, energy efficiency, recovered waste energy. This is an area that I know there are good things happening but we haven't seen much for stats on it.

Each time we bring a market, for example for wood pellets, into a community, that begins to deal with the logistical challenges and costs for a homeowner or a business within that community to take advantage of that same energy source and allow them to springboard forward to similar savings and so on.

That's it. I just wanted to highlight those and I would appreciate any response from the Minister.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. First, the 25 percent earmark that the Member alluded to about the building codes, working with MACA and other departments, there's been a discussion as well. When it comes to policies, those policies are also in discussion with the communities that we deal with on a continuous basis. We try to meet those standards as well.

Renewable resource energy across the board has been of high importance within our department, again working with other departmental areas when it comes to renewable energy in that fashion.

Also reducing the need for fossil fuels. I'll get Mr. Guy to elaborate a bit more in these areas and also reduction of environmental costs. If I could have Mr. Guy explain more in detail.

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

**MR. GUY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The project that we have on the books today for the tank farm upgrade is an example of one of the projects that we do to bring our tank farms up to code, up to standard to meet the environmental laws that have been changed or standards that have been brought

into place since the original construction – many of those facilities are aging – as well as providing any additional capacity that we may need to meet the needs of the communities. We also are primarily upgrading the codes, the liners and the containment berms.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Guy. Any further general comments on the Department of Public Works and Services' capital budget?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Detail.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Detail, thank you. I'll refer your attention, please, to page 5-2 in your capital estimates book, Public Works and Services, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$11.241 million.

---Interjection

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Oh, you want the summary? Okay. Sorry. Summary would be deferred. Now I direct your attention away from the summary page and go to page 5-4. Is that the page that we're going to, page 5-4?

---Interjection

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Okay. Public Works and Services, activity summary, asset management, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$5.976 million. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. There are a few points I'd like to bring out here. First of all, the deferred maintenance is an important issue. We know that we have quite a backlog. We have made some progress and I appreciate that, and there's still much more to go and the department is continuing to work on that. That's good work.

I want to highlight the schools in Yellowknife. Particularly Sissons is one that keeps getting docked and put on the backburner, yet there's obviously a very high need in that area. I'd appreciate knowing what the plan is for when that will finally be addressed. That's been highlighted for many years now.

Also, on the order of the general purpose office buildings – 6,000 square metres – and other government infrastructure of this ilk that we're contemplating, I'm wondering what the opportunity is for getting a policy in place where 1 percent of those facilities can become available to the arts communities in each community that we develop this infrastructure in. I'd like to specifically request that that be done for this particular general purpose office building in downtown Yellowknife.

I have had the opportunity to talk to Heritage Canada and somewhat to the arts community here. There's a lot of enthusiasm and potential for project sharing and costs. I know and I've brought this to

the attention of Cabinet and perhaps there's some progress happening there, but it's a real opportunity and we need to start supporting these groups in realizing the benefits, especially to the local economies that they can bring. This is that 6,000 square metre office building. One percent of it would be obviously 60 square metres. That's a little over 600 square feet. Not a huge amount but it could be very important space for the sorts of demonstration and advertising and administration, really, of the arts community in the capital.

I think I'll actually save the rest for other divisions. I'll leave it at that.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. The Yellowknife schools, it's my understanding, are funded differently. I'll get Mr. Guy to elaborate a little bit more on that, but when it comes to deferred maintenance they are funded differently than other projects.

The office building, when we talk about arts, the new building that's going up is not really suitable for arts but there are other private sector spaces that are more suitable and available in that respect and would also cut huge savings over the long run. I'll get Mr. Guy to elaborate a bit more since he's been involved with more detailed discussion.

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

**MR. GUY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, the Deferred Maintenance Program funding is intended to be applied to buildings that are owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories and maintained by the Department of Public Works and Services. The schools in Yellowknife are not within the scope of the Department of Public Works and Services. Those facilities are funded for and maintained by the boards themselves. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just again, in reverse order, where is then the maintenance work being planned? How is it being planned? What are we doing to ensure that the work is being done, for example in Sissons School in Yellowknife?

On the general purpose office building, of course, I disagree with the Minister. I think it's entirely possible that the space be made available for arts without any impact on the private sector here. They don't currently have it and there is an opportunity for paying for that, in fact, in working cooperatively with the federal government.

I would just like to note that the building design for this project is not due until April of 2013. That's 15

months from now so there's plenty of time to design this into the facility. All it requires is the political will to do this, and at 1 percent use of space, obviously, I don't think it's a huge burden to bear, especially in the capital city. I would appreciate some more details from the Minister on that. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. This particular area, of course, will be part of the policy that we need to work within the ECE department as the Minister responsible. These are discussions that we can certainly have between the two parties.

Public Works and Services is not really responsible in that area. The decision has to be brought forward to the Executive department to decide on the next step if the arts should be part of this new building. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. Just on that then, I did have another question that I would appreciate a response on. But on this one, which department should I be talking to on this one? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** My understanding is that the space area needs to be in consultation with the ECE department, so those are discussions that can generally happen. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks for the Minister's response on that. I will follow up on that.

The other question I had was if the deferred maintenance is not responsible for the schools, I'm wondering if there's any GNWT role in getting that deferred maintenance done. We seem to, obviously, be doing it for a lot of schools elsewhere. How are we and when are we going to make sure it gets done by whomever is responsible? For example, Sissons School in Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

**MR. GUY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The Department of Public Works and Services also provides technical services and technical support to the boards through the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. So if there's a request to have a technical assessment done on one of those facilities, we would undertake that on behalf of the Department of Education.

Any maintenance-related issues that the boards have or technical support related, if they have a problem with their building systems or boilers or building envelope, they have access to the staff and technical services of the Department of Public Works and Services to provide them with some sort of technical support in those areas where they're challenged. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you for that information. Can I just confirm that there has been no request for any maintenance or upgrades to the Sissons School in Yellowknife? Thank you.

**MR. GUY:** My understanding is that there is a plan identified in the 20-year needs of the Department of Education to do some upgrades to that school, but I'm not aware of any direct requests for maintenance-related funding at this time. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** It's certainly been brought up for many years by MLAs. I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Moving on and just to let Members know who I have on the list under this activity, I have Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Bisaro and Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to ask the Minister under the department if he could provide to me a briefing. It could be in a document, or I know I heard Mr. Guy talk about it earlier, on the situation in Colville Lake with their honey bucket matter there at the school and also at the health centre. I know the kids, 53 of them have to wait another year to use a facility that has running water in there. I'm really disappointed that it will take another year for this department to put in a proper facility in the school, and also they can look at that at the health centre too.

There is a sewer truck in Colville Lake and there are people in there that use the water situation. It's not as good as the sewer. I guess I'm just disappointed that it's taken this long to put a proper running facility in the community. Can he provide me with a briefing that, hopefully, I can go to Colville Lake to explain why it's going to take another year to put a washroom in the school and in the... Not even talking about the health centre. I don't even know where the health centre is with that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. This particular area has a high importance for our department as well, both the ECE department and also Public Works and Services, but we have to work with the community. The sewage lagoon is still being worked on. It hasn't been completed by the community and it's kind of out of our control, but we continue to establish or install a sewage tank. That will be happening this winter. Once the sewage lagoon is completed and in order, then it will all be connected. We are ready, as Public Works and Services, to go into the community and establish the functioning sewage tank and other areas as well. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Madam Chair, they're going to install a sewer tank. They're doing it during the

winter and it's cold. You know, it's difficult. It's going to cost probably more; I'm not too sure. They had all summer to do it. I don't know what as part of the deferred maintenance or what happened. The community has been trying to work with this government for a long time. It's been years. I find it hard for the Minister to say we're trying to work with the community to get this in our community, especially at the school so those 53 kids that have to go through this system. There are only two honey buckets in the school. We're not even talking about the health centre. I know the community wants to move on it. They have the sewer truck. It's being used at the band hall. It's being used at the bed and breakfast. They're using it. I think you have to have somebody from DPW actually to go into Colville Lake and work with them. The community wants to work with them. I guess I'm having a hard time trying to follow the paperwork. It doesn't quite jive with what's actually happening in Colville Lake. I guess that's the saying; that the job's not done until the paperwork is there.

I am trying to follow this, Madam Chair. It is just hard to understand. I hope that the Minister will dispatch some of the workers to go into Colville Lake and say this is what we can do. It's a shame. Fifty-three kids can go another whole year without proper running washroom facilities. It is unheard of in this day and age.

I'm not going to talk too much on my frustration. The Minister knows. DPW knows. This government knows. This seems to be a really difficult time to put in washrooms or get the Minister to talk about other departments that also need to coordinate. We are a small government. I don't know why it is so hard to coordinate a small project like putting a proper washroom into the health centre. It's deplorable. I am speaking out my frustration there, Madam Chair.

The teachers have to be commended. Maybe to get the government to work faster, maybe we can put an extra two more honey buckets in that school. That will be four. At least we can speed it up, but it is frustrating, I guess. Some speak on their frustration that these kids in kindergarten to a higher grade. It doesn't seem to faze all of us over here because we don't have that situation here. If that was something that happened in this Legislative Assembly, we would be up in arms. In Colville Lake the parents are screaming the same way. I just want to leave it at that. It doesn't matter if the Minister responds or not.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Madam Chair, all I can say at this point is we will be putting in the sewage tank. Whatever happened this past summer or winter, it wouldn't have made a difference because we are still waiting for a sewage lagoon to be completed. Even though it was completed this summer, it will be just sitting there.

We will be going forward with this in the wintertime so we can be ready for summer when the completion of the sewage lagoon is completed by the community. We did commit and we are looking forward to having our staff going into the community and completing that project in due time. Mahsi, Madam Chair.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** It would have made a difference this year if they had sewage tanks going into the Colville Lake School. I am telling you right now, if the Minister and staff went to Colville Lake, they have the sewer truck there. It is pumping out sewer in the bed and breakfast and pumping out of the band office and it is being used. For the Minister's statement that it wouldn't matter, I think that is a real kind of attitude to say to our community in Colville Lake it wouldn't matter. It would have mattered, because the sewer truck now is being used in Colville Lake. They have a garage and they are using it. They are using it in the bed and breakfast. It would have made a big difference to the kids in Colville Lake to have running water in their school for those 53 kids.

You go there and look outside in the schoolyard and you will see four or five honey buckets outside with honey bags out there. You go to the health centre and it's the same thing there too.

I think this government needs to wake up and say we are going to do something and work with the community. The community wants to work. I am hoping that DPW would be more practical, more looking at the reality of Colville Lake and when it does its planning on bringing small and large capital projects in, that the knowledge and the expertise in the community do work and do help. We always can't rely on the people who have gone to university and who are down south and trying to figure out how to work things in our small communities. That's what I want to say to the Minister.

It's frustrating when you have to now go back to Colville Lake and see the kids and the families and they say, well, what happened? Well, sorry. We will wait another year because you don't have a proper sewage lagoon. They're going to laugh, because they are already using that sewer lagoon. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Again all I can say is that it is going to be happening in the wintertime. There is a brand new water truck and sewage truck to be delivered on this year's winter road, 2012. That is the information we are getting from MACA. We work closely with MACA as well. The sewage tank is currently being built, ready for delivery on the winter road. That is happening. PWS is following through with that, definitely. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Next I have Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to get on the record that, as I said in committee, I respect the concerns that Mr. Bromley has been raising regarding the display case or a space for artisans to sell their works and wares, but the intent is there and I want to stress that. But the reality here is I disagree under the principle of we can't be giving free space away. There is a rental market in the downtown that would be of significant concern if we were giving space away to some groups and not the next, and the next NGO will be phoning me or another MLA, asking if they could have free space. We get into quite a complicated process here where how do we meet everyone's needs. The sad thing is sometimes it is a lot easier to just say no up front, rather than try to figure out how to come up with a policy on that.

Just to carry it a little further, it wouldn't be more than 150 or 250 feet away that we have a business called Northern Images. I can assure you they would be quite upset if the GNWT was giving away space to artisans to sell their wares. We have businesses that are struggling to stay ahead of the game in the sense of selling stuff, making sure that they cover their own rent, and the costs, and pay their tax and city taxes and whatnot. It would seem horribly insulting to them, those who have made those types of commitments to be in business in the downtown and we turn around and give space away.

Now, that said, I said without spending a whole lot of time or thought or energy into the problem, I can appreciate that if we want to figure out how to display some artisans' work within the territorial buildings, I have no particular issue with that. If anything, it may be a good idea to use an opportunity to showcase some work being done. But how can that be done in a way that is constructive but not biting into the market of people trying to sell it? I'm not sure we are here to discuss that or decide those types of issues today, but I would certainly be in support if there was a display case that showed work.

But back to the point of if you start selling work in government buildings, then there is a responsibility brought in there and a significant concern. The spirit and intent is a good one. I will again underscore that. We have to keep in mind that the private sector itself doesn't like this building to begin with and that is a whole other issue. Now there is an intent to give free space away, which will cause concern. I don't have to go far to the constituency to find people who would have great objections.

Just to tie it all together, as I have said before, and even at the arts forum I had mentioned to the artisans there – and it may not have been the most popular suggestion but I would like to think that it was one of the most honest ones – the fact that the

artisans have to take a stake into the solution and getting free space is not feasible here in Yellowknife. It is a challenge. Once we start giving it away to some groups, we have to start giving it away to more. It's a real challenge. They have to take an economic stake into the solution of this problem.

I coined it towards one of the four legs or pillars to any problem. The territorial government needs to be part of the solution. The City of Yellowknife needs to be part of the solution if it's done here. The federal government, through Heritage Canada, needs to be part of the solution, but by no means or any less the artisans need to be part of the solution.

I know we're here to discuss the capital plan, and in stressing that, I don't think the GNWT making free space available in this particular building helps them. It actually enables them to demand more free space and I think it's a mistake. I think it's important to put that on the record here.

Lastly, I should say it this way, the artisans need an introduction to space that's available. I'd be more than happy to take them down to the malls – they have a lot of empty space – and talk to them there. I've put that out there for consideration as well.

A little direct question is Public Works, but other than the fact that I needed to put it officially on record that I oppose that in this forum. So if it comes back in another forum, maybe we'll discuss it under a policy under Public Works. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I don't hear any question there. Did you want to respond to that, Mr. Lafferty?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. We're not talking about giving away free spaces. This is an area that we know there are a lot of NGOs out there, not only that, but other organizations, private sector and there are different buildings where there are vacancies. So what I stated was that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment does have some options to work with within the community, and when Mr. Bromley raised that issue that was just one area where we are exploring different discussions. I'm not saying that it's going to happen; it's just that discussion has been ongoing. So those are just some of the areas that I've been talking about. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** But, like anything, silence is assent and if I don't express that concern under the capital process right now, then it could be seen as one perspective is the one to go with. So it's important to get that out there now and I assure you and assert to the Assembly that we have disparities, whether they're daycare spaces, some free within the GNWT institutions in some areas and some in other places in other communities where we have to charge full market rent and we

have a lot of challenges on how to balance that particular one. I mean, I don't want us bringing in another problem that's... You know, how do we balance?

This is the only opportunity I have to speak to this and someone has to provide a different perspective. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Moving on, next on the list I have Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just have a couple of comments at the outset. I want to state my unreserved approval for a focus on deferred maintenance. I know PWS is the department that pretty much has the Deferred Maintenance Program and we've certainly expanded that program over the last several years. I think it's very definitely the way to go and I certainly support the focus that we've put on deferred maintenance in all of our areas.

I do wish to speak to the suggestion by Mr. Bromley about providing arts space in new GNWT buildings. I don't believe his suggestion was earmarked specifically for this particular Yellowknife building and I guess what I would like to say is that I think there's a huge opportunity for us to encourage arts.

Any number of times we will hear that arts is part of our economic development as tourism. Arts tourism is certainly an area in which we can expand where we can develop our community. I would like to see, as opposed to simply referring this issue to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, I think this is an issue which ought to be looked at by Cabinet in terms of developing a policy. I'm not thinking about a retail space.

I know Mr. Hawkins was referencing, I think, free space for retail. That's not, I think, what we need. I think what we need is a space where artists can develop, where artists certainly can display works and even if it happens to be that 1 percent of the space in the building is for artists to display their work, not for sale but simply to display them so that tourists come into any community, they want to see what local artists have to show them. If there is no space where they can be displayed, then people have no idea what is available.

So I'd like to ask the Minister if he would consider expanding his view of this particular issue and look at developing a policy that would consider, and there would then be some clear definition of what we mean by art space. At the moment it's pretty much up to each individual's interpretation, but if we can develop a policy, then that would be something where it would apply to all newly built buildings in the GNWT, whether it be 1 percent or 10 percent or 100 percent, but there is a statement that we will provide space for the arts and this policy would determine what kind of space that would be.

To Mr. Hawkins' statement that we're not going to get free space given away, well, I think the artist-run community centre happened to have free space for a number of months and there are opportunities for organizations, through philanthropy, to be given a space where they can do things, like, for their organization. They certainly had meetings there, they displayed works there, they certainly had events there, any number of events and I think it was a real boost, a real shot in the arm for the arts community not just in Yellowknife but throughout the Territories. Because any artists that came from any other community came through the artist-run community centre and got some sort of a boost from it, even just artists being able to interact from one person to another.

So I would like to ask the Minister again – I'm rambling on here a bit – if he would consider expanding this particular idea, taking it to Cabinet for the development of a policy that would apply to all newly built GNWT buildings in the future. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. When we talk about arts we can talk about, I guess, various artists in the Northwest Territories displaying their arts and their work, their piece of work. We do have, in some government buildings but not all government buildings, PWS I'm not sure if we have an arts display in the actual building itself, but we do have in the ECE building. I think different buildings have their own displays. Again, this is a matter that needs discussion in the Executive branch as well.

As I stated before, although it's a separate item from ECE, ECE also talked about displaying arts throughout the Northwest Territories. Those are options that we've just briefly been discussing. So we want to move forward on that, and that will be discussed with the Cabinet and also with the standing committee when their time comes.

This is an area that's been brought forward before and I'll just get Mr. Guy to just elaborate a bit more during their discussion when the actual building was going up. Mahsi.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Mr. Guy I think had an explanation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Mr. Guy, my apologies.

**MR. GUY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just following up on the Minister's comments, some buildings that are constructed do have space for arts. It really depends on the program department that's constructing it and what their requirements are even in office space for a specific program and their

tenant improvements or their tenant space has some program-related art display that they may want, they may incorporate it. For example, things that are made locally might be displayed in ITI regional offices or in other government offices that are regional offices by the departments that are responsible or have a linkage to those sort of programs, whether it's crafts or arts. As I said, we also do incorporate some arts-related space when we do the schools on behalf of ECE. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MS. BISARO:** Both the response from the Minister and from Mr. Guy indicates to me that what we have is piecemealed. We don't have an all-encompassing policy that goes across all our departments. At the moment every office, almost every department it sounds like, does their own thing and I think there's an opportunity for us to provide a bit of an incentive, a bit of a shot in the arm and some support for arts in every one of our communities. Existing buildings aside, I think future buildings could – if we had a policy in place – provide a base for arts. I didn't hear the Minister say that. He said the Executive would consider it. He didn't say what the Executive would consider. I ask again if he would be willing to ask the Executive to consider a policy relative to arts space in our future buildings.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about the infrastructure here, about how we move forward on capital. What the Member could be referring to is, as we move forward on the business planning cycle, to produce more arts in the buildings. Those are the discussions that we can have with my Cabinet colleagues. I need to get their perspective, as well, on this particular subject. We talk about the 1 percent and how it's going to look overall within the GNWT buildings. I can definitely bring that forward and have discussion and see what the outcome will be.

**MS. BISARO:** Just one last comment. I have to disagree with the Minister that we're not talking about infrastructure, future buildings. We're talking about the building of buildings and within the design of those buildings that we allocate space for the arts. What that space happens to be can be covered in a policy. I don't see this as giving money to an arts group for them to run programs. This is providing physical space for them to either display their works or run programs or whatever. I do think that it fits within capital. Thank you. No question there.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Our next line of questioning is with Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions today, too, concern the general purpose office building. I'm not 100 percent agreeable to this concept. I have reviewed some of the briefings on the issue. I think we're looking for some of the dollars that we're saving over a longer period of time, then we could also do half a dozen things to look at what the territorial government does to save that kind of money. If we look at long term versus rewards, there are a lot of things that the territorial government does that we could eliminate costs.

One of the first questions I have for the Minister is concerning public consultation with some of the lessors that we have right now. Has there been any public consultation in the process of this building?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. I'll go to Mr. Guy answer that.

**MR. GUY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of this project I think most of our landlords, if not all of them, are aware that we're moving forward with this project. There has been a lot of discussion, certainly at the working level, with our leasing staff, our property management staff, with their day-to-day contacts with the landlords and I don't think there's any surprise in the landlord community in Yellowknife that we are going ahead with this project.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** So is Mr. Guy's referral thinking that they're in favour of it?

**MR. GUY:** I don't know whether they're in favour of it or not. We've never had any real official correspondence from any one particular landlord whether they support the project or not. Obviously they are concerned whenever somebody wants to build office space in a place where they have a large piece of the market and they would be concerned that perhaps there would be some impacts. However, we did do a lot of work to demonstrate that the impacts would not be significant, particularly in the Yellowknife market, and we have not really had any significant concerns raised.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** One of the other concerns that I have in the briefing I received is the government's assessment that we need to keep a certain percentage ownership versus rental. They referred to a lot of southern numbers. I'd like to just ask the department if they actually considered the cost of doing business in the North, which would be quite a bit higher and that we're probably pretty close to where we should be as far as the ratios. Those people who do lease from us do have a lot more costs in their operations. Did the department look into that?

**MR. GUY:** That's a good question. Yes, we did look into those costs. We took into careful consideration the operating costs of buildings in the North. We have a fair amount of experience within

the department because we do operate and maintain a number of buildings here, as well, across the North and we have a quantity server and cost estimate staff within the department to look at those issues. When you look at these particular buildings here in Yellowknife, many of those high costs of operating in the North are transferred to us through the leases. We pay all the O and M on the buildings, for example. The heating costs, the electrical costs, all those higher costs are already outside of the lease costs that we have. We pay those directly.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** My next question is more of a comment or a concern. My concern is: Has the department looked at the future demands of departments in the Yellowknife area? My concerns are that the space that we're emptying right now may be swallowed up by the future demands of departments. As everybody is aware here, a few years ago we had division. There was probably a lot of empty office space. Now we're full again. I'm just wondering if we're going to have that same problem three to five years from now, that we're going to be full again and going to have to build another building. Did the department look at all the territorial government departments' needs right now?

**MR. GUY:** This particular project we looked at the needs of our existing portfolio and our existing inventory. We did take into consideration the office space that we occupy today.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** So, for my clarification, we never looked into future departments' needs in the upcoming years. These office spaces that we're clearing out, potentially may be clearing out, may be filled in by other departments that are squeezed right now.

**MR. GUY:** We do have a Yellowknife office plan that looks at the office space needs and we do reconcile it every year with departments and take into consideration departments' future needs.

Really what we're looking to do here is rebalance our portfolio. Our portfolio is very unbalanced in favour of leased facilities right now. This building is a small step towards rebalancing our portfolio.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** This government being fairly new, I guess, has the department looked at the new priorities of this government? Namely, decentralization and some of the effects that that would have on office demands in the Yellowknife area.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. This particular project, of course, as you know, is a preapproved project from the last Assembly. The priorities and goals and objectives of this 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly will definitely take into effect

as we move forward on the new projects within the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly government, for sure.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** I guess in closing I don't have any questions, but I do have concerns with this project. This government has indicated, and discussed it last Assembly as well, that decentralization was an issue and they're still looking to increase – from what I can tell – more office space in Yellowknife area, which from what I understand doesn't seem to discuss anything about decentralization and they're not willing to discuss that at all. I have a problem with the fact that government is getting into where the private sector should be involved. Being a pure businessman, I guess, and now a politician, I have a problem with a lot of this issue. Thank you for your time.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We agree that we need to take those goals and priorities into consideration and we are mindful of the cost factor, as well, when it comes to leasing. There has been an increase of 40 percent. We have to find ways of cost savings. This, again, is preapproved from the previous government. Now the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be mindful of what the Member is referring to. He has brought up his concerns and issues, and even transferring the positions into the region has been talked about as part of our goals. We'll have to be mindful of that within the departments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. We'll go on to questions from Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow up and thank Mr. Hawkins for his support. I, of course, did not mention anything about selling art; I talked about display and exhibition of art. Nor did I mention anything about free space. I, in fact, mentioned that Heritage Canada is interested in partnering and paying for this infrastructure. I just wanted to express my appreciation for his support there on my main points.

I think there's been a good discussion on this need for a good policy. One of the priorities for this government is diversification of our economy and I think it's well understood that the arts are a real opportunity to make progress on that diversification. Certainly featuring, displaying, promoting arts is a real opportunity, given that they typically don't have the infrastructure themselves. It's on that basis that I think we would like to see a policy.

I appreciate the Minister's suggestion that the Executive would be the appropriate one for this. I guess I would just like to ask the Minister if he would take this forward to the Executive and seek this sort of policy for new GNWT infrastructure from now on across the NWT at 1 percent or something like that in support of the arts.

I think, although I did not ask for free space in the infrastructure in Yellowknife, I think in some of our

small communities where they don't have many opportunities at all it would not be out of line to consider providing free space for the display of arts in our government infrastructure.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Any response from the Minister? Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to partnership, of course, Heritage Canada has been very proactive with partnering with the GNWT on various partnership and cooperation agreements and contributions. We also work closely with NGOs for them to find spaces. That doesn't necessarily have to be within GNWT buildings as well. I already did commit to the Members that a priority discussion that we can have at the Cabinet level is this whole art space area. When we talk about that, it's also 1 percent increase cost to the factor as well. We'll have to keep mindful of that. We are talking about additional space to what we have. I did commit already that this will be brought forward as our discussion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. No further questions. Page 5-4, Public Works and Services, activity summary, asset management, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$5.976 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Page 5-7, Public Works and Services, activity summary, Technology Service Centre, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.405 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Page 5-10, Public Works and Services, activity summary, petroleum products division, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$3.86 million. Agreed? Mr. Bromley, question?

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I had indicated I would like to follow up on the specifics by division and so I will here, very briefly.

The proposal for a tank farm to increase capacity and upgrade, code upgrade, and I understand there are some serious challenges, structure challenges that need to be corrected in this community. I'm happy to see that work being undertaken. But I do want to stress again that there are opportunities to avoid the costs of in this case doubling the storage capacity and, of course, with that, the ongoing costs of forever trying to meet the new environmental standards and so on.

The community of Tulita has winter road access. It's directly on the Mackenzie River. It's one of the easiest communities to deliver to, of course. It's a

real, perfect opportunity for reducing our use of fossil fuels. It's surrounded by forest and they could use the jobs, I'm sure. I can check with my colleague on that, but I bet they could use the jobs in that community. This is a real opportunity where, again, this project demonstrates the high cost of ongoing, and increasing and predictable costs of relying on fossil fuels when we clearly have some alternatives that are available. Those are not solely, of course, the responsibility of this department. This department is helping in that direction, but I think the Minister is answering for the government so I have to ask this question: Why aren't we avoiding these costs? And while I'm at it, what are the costs of doubling this infrastructure in terms of capacity volume both for gasoline and for diesel versus the cost that's maybe in a percentage term versus the cost that's being put to upgrade it to proper code level? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We'll go over to Mr. Guy.

**MR. GUY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have the specific cost breakdown, but generally I would say the majority of the costs associated with this project are related to the code upgrade and the civil works associated with upgrading the liner and the berm around the facility. The additional package does add some cost but it's not a majority of the proportion or it's not proportional to the cost. I could perhaps ask Mr. Vandenberg to provide more clarity or detail on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Vandenberg.

**MR. VANDENBERG:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the moment I can't provide much more detail than is in the capital plan project substantiation at this time. Mr. Guy is correct; most of the costs will be involved not in increasing the capacity but replacing much of the dilapidated infrastructure, including the berms, the earth works, an operator shelter and a variety of other equipment within the facility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Vandenberg. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's really it. I'll be happy to leave it there. Again, there is a strong government-wide aspect to this. This department is responsible for the results of a policy or lack of it and it's an opportunity that I am highlighting at this time. I appreciate that opportunity and I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a quick question. He was mentioning about the berm and I'm just curious: Do we end up booking these as liabilities under our environmental file or do we, at this time, when we do replacements, remediate them? That said, do we actually remediate them on

site or do we actually remove the soil completely as the contaminant from the area? I'm just trying to get a sense of how we juggle that or deal with that booking. Because, I mean, I could be not correct on this observation, but through my short time on this earth I've seen very few berms that are around tanks that don't have any hydrocarbons in them. I have yet to see one – I'll say it that way – that doesn't have problems. I'm just curious on what we end up doing with that environmental liability. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. We'll go to Mr. Guy.

**MR. GUY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's a good question. We have a lot of tank farms, in addition to this one, in our portfolio. We have a regular process to go around and do environmental site assessments on each of these facilities to determine whether there is any contaminant or any environmental liabilities associated with them. We book those liabilities with the Department of Finance as environmental liabilities, and any of the cleanups are funded through the Environmental Liabilities Program. In this particular case, I'm not aware of any environmental liabilities on this tank farm. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Although I'm not Mr. Bromley – I don't wear a green cape to work with the environmental symbol on it – I do care equally about some of these particular concerns, and I'm just curious as the opportunity when we do this do we ensure that we tackle this particular problem rather than booking it against a particular liability. But I think Mr. Guy said there isn't a particular problem at this spot, if I understood him correctly, but maybe... I see him waving his pen not in a mean gesture way, so I suspect he would like to reply. The issue for me is I'm just curious on how we address that particular problem only because it was mentioned and it sort of piqued an interest. Thank you.

**MR. GUY:** We do have an ESA, I believe, on this particular tank farm. I don't know what level of detail of contamination there is, but as we get into the work, if we do discover any unknown contamination during the construction project, we do address it during the project at that time, and there is contingency funding in the project for those types of unforeseen circumstances. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Fair enough. That's both important to me and I'm sure that's very important to the community. Like I said, I heard it and it did pique a bit of interest on how we address that. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Public Works and Services, activity summary, petroleum products division, infrastructure investment summary, total

infrastructure investment summary, \$3.86 million. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you. I would ask Members to return to 5-2 for the department summary. Public Works and Services, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$11.241 million. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you very much. Since that concludes Public Works and Services, does the committee agree that consideration of the Department of Public Works and Services is completed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you very much. I would like to thank Minister Lafferty and his team today, Mr. Vandenberg and Mr. Guy, for their time. If that's the case, we'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witness out. Thank you for your time today.

Thank you, committee. We agreed earlier today we will be covering the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Is that still agreeable?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** I would ask the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty, if he has any opening remarks or if he wants to bring his witnesses into the House.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** I would ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he wouldn't mind escorting the witnesses into the Chamber, please.

Thank you, committee members. I would like to again welcome the members to the House. I will ask Minister Lafferty to please introduce his witness.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. Dan Daniels, deputy minister, Education, Culture and Employment. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you. I will now open the floor to general comments on the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Any questions? Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a few comments to the infrastructure for the Department of Education. I wanted to ask the department, when they are doing their capital planning or their needs assessment, if the community of Colville Lake is in line anywhere in the needs assessment for a new learning centre.

They are operating out of an older unit. They have some pretty good success by having a person in there working with the community and the older people. I think that it's about time that this community be looked at as a community where a learning centre can be brought in and established to have a proper facility to upgrade, do specific community projects in education or culture and even with employment training, if Colville Lake could be identified as a community where a possible learning centre could be worked in the capital needs or capital planning process.

I know the Minister of Finance has said that money is going to be an issue and I do agree with the Minister; however, we could look beyond these next four years to see if that is something that is possible. ...*(inaudible)*...infrastructure in their existing colleges. There were even discussions in the last Assembly on Yellowknife looking at a campus. There are lots of discussions on those types of infrastructure.

I guess I wanted to ask the Minister to keep your eye on the ball on some of the communities that don't have facilities such as learning centres or campuses, if some discussion could happen around a new school for Colville Lake and a learning centre combination of a whole bunch of things, how we can move in that type of direction.

I spoke to the Minister of Public Works. Now I want to speak to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the washroom facilities in this school. There are upgraded washroom facilities – I know a lot of people use them in camping situations – and I wonder if the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment could think about putting some upgraded washroom facilities in Colville Lake School, since the Minister of Public Works says it will be another year for that washroom in Colville Lake portable and the log building school won't be useable.

I'm asking for some creativity from this department or this government here. Look at other ways rather than saying, well, too late. I think they need to wake up and smell the honey bucket here, on this issue here. There are 53 people that work in this building here. If you bring that situation to this building here for 53 people, you're going to have a public outcry. You're going to have a huge, huge demonstration. People will not stand for it. Why do we allow our kids in Colville Lake and say it's tolerable? Tolerate this. We can't even use the outside outhouses. It's too cold. You don't allow little kids to do that. At one time it was okay, but we've moved beyond that.

So I'm asking for some creativity from this department so those facilities, those units... There's no proper ventilation in the school for those honey buckets, and I said before, the smell isn't always great, but we expect the little kindergartens, grade fours and grade threes to live with it and be

okay with it. We also put our teachers in those types of situations. It's not a very good learning and educational type of environment.

I don't think any one of us in this building here would want to put our kids through that situation. It would be a bloody outcry from parents and from teachers. So I ask the Minister if he would look at some of those creativities to put proper washroom facilities in the school. If he is so convinced that the Department of Public Works can't do it and it will be operational next year and MACA can't put in the sewer lagoon. I already said there's a sewer lagoon being used right now in Colville Lake, so a sewer truck there right now used in Colville Lake. If you fly there you will see the situation.

I guess I'm trying to put this issue on the table so we can have a good learning environment, because right now they're not taking it very seriously, because what are they doing about the situation there? It's almost like a joke. I guess that's something that I want to ask the Minister here in the general comments.

In Deline they're looking at doing some work on their school, hopefully, by the people. They want a new school in Deline also, but I want to ask the Minister if he could provide me with the process of the needs to go in to renovate the school or to put a new school in Deline. What is the comparison? What is the analysis? What will it take?

In Colville Lake I know they need one; there's no doubt about it. There are boxes and boxes of stacked material, written material in the school. They're running out of space. They should at least put in a proper building there for space to store some of their building supplies, educational supplies. They're doing the best they can, those teachers in Colville Lake. God bless their souls; God bless their hearts for doing the best they can. I think we need to pull up our socks in the Government and do all that we can to help the teachers help the kids.

So I want to ask the Minister those two big ones. Fort Good Hope is looking for some help with their track and field. They have a brand new school, thanks to the government, thanks to the Minister, but there is a lot behind the school that is not developed and they want to put a proper track and field facility in there. They just don't have that type of dollars; we heard that already.

Those are some of my general comments to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The needs are high. The money is not too much. We need to remember our small communities or some of the things that we don't have that some of the larger centres have. We need to go back and relook at those, and revisit those and put those needs in the small communities. My people, our goals and aspirations are no different than anybody else in the Northwest Territories. We are looking for

help there also. Those are my comments from the Sahtu.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Just to let the Members know here, we have Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Blake, in that order. I will turn over the comments to Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The school we just discussed with the PWS Minister and now we are dealing with ECE, I'm not sure how we can change the picture. We did commit and the sewage tank, of course, is going in as soon as possible in the early winter so it can be ready for summer when we talk about the washroom, upgrading the washroom facility area. Our department is working on that. We want to have the completion by summer as well. It will be ready for the next school year.

We need to work closely with the Member, of course, and also with the Sahtu Board of Education on this work and with other work, as well, where the Member also talked about the learning centre. Again, the Member indicated that the fund is an issue. It is a pressing issue in the Northwest Territories and we're strapped on how much we can spend, and also for capital infrastructure in the Northwest Territories. We have to be mindful of that, that we are servicing 33 communities so the funding can only stretch so much.

There has been a previous federal engagement, their contribution towards Hay River Reserve, Tsiigehtchic and also Lutselk'e for learning centres. This could be another collaboration with the federal government. In my role as a Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, I will be pursuing and asking those questions, how we can partner up again in this matter.

When we talk about the new schools in Deline and Colville Lake, as the Member indicated, there are, of course, processes that we have to follow, again, with the funding that is allocated for the whole Northwest Territories. We will be discussing those areas. I totally agree with the Member when he says a good learning environment. Each and every community should have a good learning environment. We are very serious about this particular issue that is before us in Colville Lake and now washroom issue, the running water. This is an area that has been discussed and the Member raised that issue in the House before, so we are serious and we are moving forward. We are going to have some remedy by summer with this particular school. Mahsi, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Next on my list is Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Under ECE my questions are more built around... I feel like I have raised this question many times. I would

like to ask some details as to where I may find some future investment if not present investment into both the Mildred Hall Elementary School as well as the Ecole J.H. Sissons School. I know that they get on the capital plan, then they are taken off the capital plan and then they are back on and off. I have to tell you it feels like we're doing the hokey-pokey dance with those particular schools. It's very frustrating for the school board as well as the two schools specifically themselves, knowing that their schools keep getting ignored.

I say this now, of course I hate following Mr. Yakeleya's concern because his concern I want to lend my strength to which is a very serious one, of course, but all schools have their own issues. He's been advocating well for his. I will give him credit for that.

Today I need help from the Minister of Education to explain where are both Sissons and Mildred Hall on the capital needs assessment plan. As I understood it, they were in line for investment. I don't see them in there in the capital plan for us, so I'm trying to get a sense of where is the commitment from the department. When can we see planning dollars committed to fulfilling on the promises of finishing?

I can go into great detail as to what the issues are there. The Minister is well aware. The deputy minister is well aware. The department is well aware of these particular problems. I think the school board and many of the parents that take their kids there are kind of getting tired of the fact that their schools are being ignored and wondering where that is, especially in light of the big super schools being built. Let's start with that, Madam Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Madam Chair, these two particular schools the Member is referring to have been in discussion during the capital planning projects. As I stated before, there are other pressing issues and matters that are before this department and other departments, as well, throughout the Northwest Territories. We are dealing with 49 different schools as well. I can assure the Member that from within our internal funding we have identified some funds to cover, or also the costs of internal planning on Ecole J.H. Sissons School. There is planning that is going to be undertaken for that particular school. Mildred Hall we want to move forward on, but we just didn't have the funds to move forward at this time. Those are some of the areas that my department have been dealing with with other departments.

As I stated, we are to keep in mind that there are other pressing issues that are before us when we deal with all of these matters that are before us. Mahsi, Madam Chair.

**MR. HAWKINS:** If I could just get some clarity on what internal planning dollars for Sissons actually means and the size. Actually, let me rephrase the question. Will a planning study be done? I guess all that really matters is this: Will a planning study be done in this particular fiscal year, 2012-2013? Will that be done in a way to identify the work that needs to be done to retrofit Sissons School? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** There are the planning studies that we have undertaken with other projects so we can identify what is needed, what kind of work that needs to be done and to identify the resources that we need, the funding. Also potential partnership with other partners as well. This particular area, of course, again using our internal resources so we can move this project along potentially to become a capital project as we move forward.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I have to admit I found the answer a little on the confusing side. What will actually be done this budget year that I can take back to the parents at Sissons and even the school board to say guess what is going to happen this year, is a real commitment on some resolve to do something. What deliverable can I take back to both the constituents, be it the school board, be it the school, be it the families? I am just trying to give them something that they understand, something that is simple and clear. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We're in December now, so we're talking about potentially starting up in 2012 with the planning study and completion by fall of 2013. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you. Anything further, Mr. Hawkins? Mr. Hawkins is done. Next on the list, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to support my colleagues Mr. Hawkins and Ms. Bisaro in raising this issue in seeking some focus, as the Minister has offered towards moving forward on the Sissons School maintenance deficit and renovations are clearly required.

I'm wondering where we're at with pellet boilers with our schools. How many schools do we have in the Northwest Territories and how many of them are now using wood pellet heat and are there opportunities for additional movement in that direction? Maybe that's something the Minister could provide at a later date.

I guess with my last point I wanted to mention Aurora College and the serious timeframe situation we're in there with I believe the lease running out in the next year or so. Obviously the campus needs some serious work and vision and I'm wondering where the department is on that. What's being done? I know we've had the occasional updates from time to time, a review of schools and so on.

There used to be some talk about the Con Mine facility, some potential out there. So I'd appreciate an update on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. With respect to wood pellet boiler systems, we don't have the exact number of how many schools. We have 49 schools. I know for a fact that Chief Jimmy Bruneau School is on a wood pellet boiler system and I'm sure there might be a couple more, but we can get that information for the Members.

Aurora College lease, yes, it's up in 2012. We're fully aware of it. We've been working with the landlord and, as we speak, a letter is going out requesting an extension so we can plan for if there's going to be a new building or how it is going to look and when is that going to be taken into effect or options that we need to work on. So we just need more time in that area. As you know, again, the capital funding is far stretched and unfortunately we're not at that point where we can talk about a new facility for the college at this point, but we need to come up with some options. So we are requesting an extension, Madam Chair. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate that response. How long will the extension be for? I am concerned that we've known about this situation for a long time and obviously have not planned for it, or we've had higher priorities. So what are we doing to make sure that we do plan for it at the end of whatever period of extension we are proposing to pursue on the lease? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We are requesting a minimum two years and up to five years so we can start planning for upcoming capital projects. Mahsi.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate that information from the Minister. That's a pretty short timeframe given our financial situation, I guess. It might challenge us, but I guess I'm just hoping that we will be hearing about a long-term plan to get something in place for Aurora College Yellowknife Campus and we need to be very explicit in our thinking to be able to achieve that plan.

Yes, I'd appreciate the information on the schools. I know K'alemi Dene School, for example, in Ndilo is a pellet one. I think we renovated St. Joe's and I think there are four or five in Hay River being done this year, maybe some in Fort Smith, but in each one there are significant savings. So I'd appreciate a look at what the opportunities might be to help on the cost side, as well as our other broad government goals. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I didn't hear a question there. Did you want to respond, Minister Lafferty?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Madam Chair, we will definitely provide that information. As I stated, there are several schools that have initiated wood pellet boiler systems and I've only highlighted a couple. So we'll definitely provide that detailed list. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Minister. I appreciate that. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I haven't had the opportunity to thank the department for the new learning centre in Tsiigehtchic, a job well done in the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and the people really appreciate that.

I just want to move on to the school in Aklavik. From our updates, it hasn't been on the priority list and the school is between 30 and 40 years old. I'd like to see that put on the priority list as soon as possible. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. The school in Aklavik, as the Member indicated, is a fairly old building. We will be discussing that and we will be visiting the community as well. To be part of the capital projects, of course, the Member can I guess refer that matter to the capital process. So this is the time to start planning for the next capital projects. So we'll definitely be mindful of that. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Minister. Nothing further, Mr. Blake? Okay, thank you, Mr. Blake. Any other for opening comments? Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just some general comments. I think we can all agree that a school is an essential institution to a community and I mean we've had a history of the institutions establishing themselves in communities and then we have children brought into the schools and there's a need for parents to live in close quarters to their children. So whenever you have a school it, of course, becomes an essential institution of the community. So there's always a support system in place to ensure that the school is successful and also that it produces successful members of society. I think that's the goal that we all strive for.

In the Dec Cho constituency, there are schools in the larger communities, but at the same time smaller communities always aspire and want to ensure that there's an established institution so that parents have the opportunity to be close to the children and ensure that we have the greatest impact of molding these future citizens of society in their primary years. So it's really integral that we have that opportunity as parents to ensure that we embellish the right virtues and principles to kids that we raise as our children.

I wanted to point out, too, that in terms of the languages, I'm very conscious and try to speak my language whenever I'm given the opportunity and we're also challenged just by the demography in terms of what age you're at, in terms of how often our language is used. So I understand there are challenges in ensure that our languages are retained. There are always ways to try to maybe improve it in terms of strategies. I know there have been efforts to revitalize the state of the languages. Of course, language and culture are relative to each other, so they go hand in hand.

One of the big things that I always really strongly believed in is training and training opportunities. We have some very large projects in terms of development projects coming down the rank for the Northwest Territories at some point and I think we need to ensure that we prepare our workforce, our labour force. There is a very vital need at local communities that we have people that get access to trades, so that we have an abundance, or at least so the local community people that could safely provide services to furnaces, that kind of stuff; electrical wiring in our local communities. At the same time, we have people who are trained to be certified plumbers as well. There's a real recognized need at the local level that we have people who can provide those services and are from the community and trained locally. They're certified in the end and, at the same time, they contribute to the overall functioning of society.

On those points, I just wanted to at least raise those points, given the opportunity, too, if I could ask a question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. I totally agree with the Member when he's referring to the importance of having schools. They are the linkage to the communities. It's also the centre of the overall GNWT goals and objectives.

The language is of importance, as well, where we have an Aboriginal Languages Strategy that's before us and has been initiated by this group through consultation with over 200 experts around the Northwest Territories. We are moving forward with that. I do try to speak my language as well. I encourage other Members if they can speak their language, to pursue that even further in the House.

Another area that the Member has touched on is the importance of training. Whether it be the trades, having local journeymen in the community who can train those individuals, whether there be apprentices working under them or working in collaboration with industries at the community or local level. We need to have a working collaboration with the college, as well, because we do have those ticketholders, along with other departments such as PWS and local community

organizations such as the Housing Corporation and so forth.

What's been brought forward is there have been a lot of opportunities that the Member has referred to. I'm definitely looking forward as Education, Culture and Employment Minister on how we can make those changes, working side by side with the college as we move into the 2012 new year and reflecting on the priorities and planning of this 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly government. Decentralizing was a key topic that we discussed.

**MR. NADLI:** I just wanted to follow up with a question to the Minister. For one, I think the community of Enterprise... I've raised this in the House with other departments, but I think this is more a designation for Education, Culture and Employment. The leadership of Enterprise have expressed that they want to see if they can establish a school in Enterprise. I think they've also indicated that they want to see if there's a way to meet the governments half way. More likely my presumption is that there's been some plans set in place in the previous Assembly and that the community is quite willing to discuss what it is that is possible in terms of perhaps establishing, maybe in addition to their hamlet office, more classrooms so that students could be housed locally, educated locally. There are concerns of putting all their children on the bus and then bussing them to Hay River on a daily basis. Has the Minister perhaps established communications or meetings with the leadership there to ensure that they work in partnership with the local leaders?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I'd like to thank the Member for raising that issue. He has raised that issue with us. We want to move forward on this. We did send out a letter back in the summer to Enterprise, to identify the process of establishing a school, the requirements that need to be met.

I'm glad to hear that the Member is referring to wanting to meet the government half way. Anything we can do to assist, my department will be there to assist the community of Enterprise to move this further along. It could be part of the capital projects as we move forward where the community does not have a school at this point.

Bussing those students, there are some concerns and safety factors that have been discussed with our department. We want to move forward on this and it could be attached to the hamlet office, as the Member has referred to. Those are the discussions and options that we need to have with the community. We sent a letter on the specific requirements on the process, so we're looking forward to having that dialogue with the community again.

**MR. NADLI:** I have another. In terms of languages and culture, I know there have been efforts to try and ensure that the languages survive. I think over

the course of the past few years there have been efforts to try and significantly note the status of Aboriginal languages in Canada. You can only do so much. There are of course local initiatives but what's more important, too, is just ensuring that parents and families do in fact try to teach their children to ensure that the language is kept. At what point would the Minister maybe designate languages going into extinction or going into decline? Just to ensure that it's given priority.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** First and foremost, I'd like to commend Fort Providence's language immersion which has been very successful to date. I think that needs applause, a pat on the back, for sure.

We want to create more of those language immersion programs into the schools. We need the language speakers, as well, to become teachers. Every opportunity with the federal Ministers over the last four years I've raised that issue about the importance of our languages. We are losing our languages, especially in the Far North. The Gwich'in are losing their language rapidly. As for some of the languages such as Tlicho are still a bit strong, but we are losing our language to the little ones.

Language has always been at the forefront of our discussions with the federal Minister responsible for Official Languages, Minister Moore. We'll continue to push that forward.

I would like to see language immersion in all schools as much as possible with the resources, with the teachers that we may have. We want to produce more Aboriginal language speakers as teachers to come out of the post-secondary schools and come back to our communities. This is one of the priorities of my department as we move forward.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. There are no further speakers on my list. Are we agreed that general comments are concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Are we okay with moving on to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** We will bypass page 8-2 as it is the summary. If we could move to page 8-4, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, advanced education, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.401 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Page 8-7, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure

investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$12.344 million. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just one quick question here. I see the Kaw Tay Whee School in Detah is up for some much needed work, renovation. There has been a concern about mould in that community. I'm wondering if that problem has been taken care of or is this the work that's meant to take care of that problem.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Daniels.

**MR. DANIELS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. This project is meant to reconfigure some space in the school. Currently there is some office space that's being used for storage, so this project will be more to address the issues of increasing or adding some storage space to the school, doing some work on the lighting in the school and addressing some of the administrative space needs in the school. The other matter is with respect to moisture in the school and that is ongoing work that we're working closely with Public Works and Services on currently.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Just to confirm that, obviously there are some health concerns and so on there. Can the Minister confirm that that work will finish up fairly quickly and take care of that problem?

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. My understanding is that through Public Works and Services and in consultation with ECE, this is an issue that they want to expedite as best as they could to remedy the situation within the school.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Page 8-7, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$12.344 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Page 8-2, Education, Culture and Employment, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$13.745 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Is committee agreed that we have concluded consideration of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister. Thank you to your witness. If the Sergeant-at-Arms would escort the witness from the Chamber.

We will move on to the Department of Health and Social Services. It is section 6 in your document. Minister, do you have witnesses you would like to bring into the Chamber? Mr. Beaulieu.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses – Sorry. I always forget this. Does the committee agree that we will have the witnesses enter the Chamber?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses into the Chamber, please?

Mr. Beaulieu, could you introduce your witnesses for us, please?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Madam Chair. To my right I have the deputy minister, Debbie DeLancey, Health and Social Services. To my left, the assistant deputy minister, Derek Elkin.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Minister. Committee, we are open for general comments. Are there any general comments on the Department of Health and Social Services? Seeing none, we will move on to detail. We will bypass the department summary on page 6-2 and move to page 6-4, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$28.089 million. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to follow up on the Stanton facility, the work going on at Stanton. Some of these things could have gone into general comments but, obviously, we have not done a good job in the past and we've let slip many opportunities.

I'm very glad to see we're finally starting to get in gear and get a program going to catch up with this territorial facility where the needs are, I'm sure – according to the employee, I'm sure we could hear them say desperate – there are many patients across the NWT who would echo that, so I'm very glad to see this happening.

I'm wondering, I don't see past expenditures here and I believe the proposal is to move into phase two. Have we actually had expenditures on phase one, capital expenditures on phase one? Does anybody know? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Madam Chair. For the prior year's expenses, I believe is what the Member is referring to, I can get the assistant deputy minister to respond to that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Mr. Elkin.

**MR. ELKIN:** In prior years the money was approved as planning study funding through the Department of Public Works and Services. There was \$800,000 in current year plus \$200,000 from Health for the current planning study. That doesn't show up in the capital allocations. It's under O and M under DPW.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Elkin. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you. That was the information I was looking for. I appreciate that response. If I could get just a plain language description of what sort of planning is being funded for the proposed fiscal year and the next fiscal year. I know that hospitals are particularly challenging, complex and demanding, and if I could get just a brief description of what sort of planning is being done over the next fiscal year. Thank you.

**MR. ELKIN:** The next two years of funding is to take the schematic design from the planning study to cost the estimate. We're going out for tender to a design consultant and that will take about a year and a half to do the schematic design.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Some of the tours we've had of the hospital and talking to the CEO there and so on, there needs to be a lot of sort of functional studies done on what departments in the hospital need to be adjacent to each other and so on. A lot of that can result in highly increased efficiency of operations and so on; the lack of it, of course, increases costs. I'm wondering, has that work been done. Has that work been done or is that being done in our current fiscal year? It's obviously not part of the schematic plans. It doesn't seem like it would be, but I'd be interested to know that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Madam Chair. That work is being done with the people at Stanton and it's part of the planning study that's in progress at this time.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Just to complete that for me, will that be completed this fiscal year before the schematic design and the next steps are begun? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Yes, that work will be completed.

**MR. BROMLEY:** That's all I had. I think it might be interesting for committee to get a briefing on the functional aspect of it since we have had some briefings that suggest that that is important to the successful operation of the hospital. I will ask for that at a later time, but thank you for that information.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is about the territorial electronic medical records system. Can I just get an overview of what that system will entail and how it's going to be implemented?

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to have Deputy Minister DeLancey respond to that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Minister. Ms. DeLancey.

**MS. DELANCEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The electronic medical record, to try to put it in plain language, is something that has been identified as a priority across Canada and is being promoted and funded by the Canada Health Infoway, which is the federal government's organization that looks at eHealth or telehealth opportunities. What it is is it's basically a planning tool and a recordkeeping tool for physicians and other health care practitioners where when they meet with a patient they can enter notes into it. They can use it to upload information into an electronic health record. It really is, in many ways, a cornerstone of providing improved access to services for our residents. What it does is it will allow a physician, for example, to set rules or set reminders, so if you have a patient with a chronic disease, the physician can remember when certain tests are needed or when to call people back for appointments. It can have clinical practice guidelines in there and it also provides a health care practitioner the opportunity to send a consultation or a question or a referral electronically to a physician in another community. Basically what it is, it will become an electronic record of an individual's health care status and history, but also it can be an interactive tool that will allow practitioners in different communities to work together to bring service to patients faster.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** A follow-up question on that program. So that is the program that's already out there and we're just piggybacking with the federal government, or is this something we're creating on our own?

**MS. DELANCEY:** It is something that we are creating on our own. It is something that's being rolled out at different paces in different jurisdictions in Canada. In most other provinces where physicians have private clinics it's done on a clinic basis. We are trying to roll it out on a territory-wide basis, so we have an opportunity, again, to provide service in all our communities by having one

common electronic medical records system for all the health centres and facilities in the Territories.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** That's good to hear. I've heard that there are difficulties with sharing information and this system will allow that, of sharing information from the local hospital authority to the territorial Stanton Hospital.

**MS. DELANCEY:** The Member is correct; it will facilitate sharing of information. We will still have some legal barriers, and we have done a lot of work and continue to look at bringing in health information legislation that will help to facilitate sharing of information between health authorities. This EMR will provide the tool that will allow that information to be shared, but we still need the policies and legislation to deal with protection of privacy issues.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** I'm just wondering about this electronic medical recordkeeping system. Are there prepackaged systems out there or are we creating it from scratch? Will we be able to use northern contractors for this service?

**MS. DELANCEY:** There are a number of vendors in Canada that sell prepackaged systems and the department is currently working to look at what's out there, which systems might suit our needs. There may be opportunity for some northern support in terms of implementation and adaptation, but the vendors are pretty much bigger national or international firms.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** As far as the assessment of the prepackaged systems that are out there, is that included in these costs of the system?

**MS. DELANCEY:** Yes, it is.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** That's all for now, thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. I have no one else on the list. Any other comments on page 6-4? Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$28.089 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, committee. We'll turn to page 6-7, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community health programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$8.1 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Okay, committee, we'll now return to page 6-2, department summary, Health and Social Services, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$36.189 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, committee. Are we agreed we have concluded the Department of Health and Social Services?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you to the Minister, thank you to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Madam Chair, I move that we report progress.

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** I will now rise and report progress

**MR. SPEAKER:** May I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please. Ms. Bisaro.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 2-17(1), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-2013, and would like to report progress. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Do I have a seconder? The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

---Carried

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

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.:

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

15. Notices of Motion

16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

17. Motions

18. First Reading of Bills

19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 2-17(1), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-2013

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:51 p.m.