



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2nd Session

Day 19

16th Assembly

HANSARD

Friday, May 30, 2008

Pages 725 to 756

The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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

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**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
Friday, May 30, 2008**

Members Present

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Norman Yakeleya.

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayer

Prayer.

Speaker (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good morning, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber.

Orders of the Day, item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 41-16(2)
STATUS OF
FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL
HOUSING DISCUSSIONS

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide the Legislative Assembly with an update on provincial and territorial activities currently being undertaken in the area of housing.

As Members may be aware, federal/provincial/territorial discussions on housing nationally are focused in three areas. Firstly, provinces and territories have been aggressively emphasizing the need for Canada to reinstate the O&M funding that is declining under social housing agreements signed by most provinces and territories.

Secondly, Canada has also been asked to reinvest so-called legacy savings, surplus funds available to CMHC as the mortgages for public housing dwellings are paid, into new affordable housing. The Northwest Territories receives approximately \$30 million annually from Canada to operate and maintain the public housing stock. This funding is currently declining annually and will lapse completely in 2038. The cumulative impact of this decline between 2008 and 2038 is a loss of \$348 million.

Thirdly, the financial uncertainty created by declining funding is compounded by the short-term nature of federal housing programs. All federal housing initiatives, including the housing trusts along with federal funding for renovation and repair

as well as homelessness funding provided directly by the federal government to community groups, will lapse as of March 31, 2009. As of today the federal government has made no commitments to extend funding for affordable housing programs past this date.

These three areas of focus of the provinces and territories clearly demonstrate the need for a long-term housing strategy. Canada is the only major nation in the world without a comprehensive strategy. According to the Wellesley Institute, Canada currently spends only \$56 per capita on housing. This is compared with \$156 per capita in the United States and \$226 per capita in the United Kingdom.

In February 2008 provincial and territorial housing ministers collectively reaffirmed their support for the principles adopted in White Point, Nova Scotia, in 2005 that would form the basis of a national housing strategy.

We need the federal government to come to the table and discuss issues such as the lack of long-term predictable funding for new construction, declining funding for the operation and maintenance of social housing, the definition of the roles and responsibilities of provinces, territories and the Government of Canada in the delivery of housing, and the need for a national housing strategy.

The Government of Canada has been resistant to meeting with provinces and territories to discuss any of these issues. Despite this hesitancy, provincial and territorial ministers have opted to schedule a meeting in October 2008 and will proceed with or without the participation of the federal government.

As part of a national effort to elevate public awareness of these issues and to attempt to convince the Government of Canada of the need to meet formally with provinces and territories to discuss the housing issues facing Canadians, I will be introducing a motion later today. This motion will call for the federal government to immediately extend programs scheduled to sunset on March 31, 2009, and commit to discussing a long-term strategy as well as roles and responsibilities with provinces and territories.

As I have mentioned before in this Assembly, it is critical for all levels of government to place a greater focus on the role housing can play as a contributing factor to improve many social problems. I am hopeful that a strong message sent by this Assembly will help convince the Government of Canada of the need to make affordable housing one of its priorities.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 42-16(2)
 "WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY"
 MAY 31, 2008, AND TOBACCO-FREE YOUTH

Hon. Sandy Lee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize World No Tobacco Day tomorrow, May 31, 2008. This day provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge the many activities aimed at the prevention and cessation of tobacco use in which the Government of the Northwest Territories has invested. These actions will create long-term benefits for Northerners and will help them make healthy and productive lifestyle choices.

Since 2002 the GNWT has made tobacco reduction a priority, and we have invested significant resources into tobacco use reduction, focusing particularly on youth and community-based programs. Since the implementation of the communications strategy and anti-tobacco legislation two years ago, vendors have been found to be compliant with the law requiring all tobacco products be hidden from view of the public. There has been one conviction and several warnings since the implementation of this legislation.

We have been guided by the 2002 Action on Tobacco strategy and informed by the report Smoke Alarm, which demonstrated the urgent need to take immediate and prolonged action to reduce the rate of smoking in the Northwest Territories and to prevent youth from starting smoking.

This year's World No Tobacco Day theme highlights tobacco-free youth. In line with this theme, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we have made towards our goal of creating a smoke-free society by celebrating those youth who are leading us into a smoke-free future. We believe the commitments made by youth in the prevention campaigns such as the Don't Be A Butthead campaign. School-based prevention activities, the introduction of workplace smoking bans and territorial tobacco control legislation, alongside other tobacco reduction programs, are making a difference.

The 2006 NWT School Tobacco Survey shows that the number of young smokers between grades 5 to 9 has declined significantly from more than 17 per cent in 2002 to 12 per cent in 2006. The rate of smoking among aboriginal youth has declined the most, down to 17 per cent from 25 per cent. While this rate is still too high, it demonstrates that progress is being made, but we need to continue our work in this important area.

I'd also like to announce that each year the Butthead campaign recruits youth to be smoke free. All youth who sign up are entered into a contest, and winners are chosen randomly. This year's winners of an iPod nano are Logan Drader, age 11, of Norman Wells; Cheyanne Andre, age 9, of Tsiigehtchic; Evan Tordiff, age 11, of Fort Smith; Tameika Steinwand, age 8, of Behchoko; and Dalton Simba, age 11, of Kakisa Lake.

This year we have 400 new youths and 1,400 youths who have recommitted to remain smoke-free. We have expanded the Butthead campaign this year by encouraging 200 NWT Arctic Winter Games athletes to sign lifetime commitments.

A pan-territorial initiative called Smoke Screening brought 12 anti-tobacco ads from around the world to the NWT, where they were viewed by NWT youth in grades 6 to 12 who voted based on what they thought to be the most effective. The winning ad will be shown on northern television in the fall.

We continue to invest in preventing tobacco use in our youth, with our payoff being a healthy, vibrant population free from the devastating effects of tobacco.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 43-16(2)
 AURORA COLLEGE RESIDENCE OPENING

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, this government understands the importance of building partnerships with aboriginal governments, municipalities and industry. In the Beaufort-Delta in particular, such partnerships have achieved great things. I recently had the opportunity to participate in the opening of the Aurora College student residence in Inuvik last month. The residence could not have been built without strong support from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Town of Inuvik, Aurora College staff and students, and the people of Inuvik.

The residence fills an immediate need in the region as there was a lack of appropriate lodging for single students studying at the college. For the past few

years single students have been sharing family residence spaces in the community. The partners in this project had the foresight to see that meeting the immediate need of the students from the region would have a much broader benefit to the community.

The facility itself was designed in consultation with the student community. The residence is bright, modern and located in close proximity to classes. It includes four large, well-kept kitchen-dining rooms, a lounge, recreation room, laundry facilities and 30 single rooms, including two barrier-free units on the first floor as well as barrier-free common areas on the first floor.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our partners as well, FSC Architects & Engineers and Dowland Contracting Ltd. Both companies worked on this project in partnership with the GNWT Department of Public Works and Services to ensure the design was appropriate and the project on schedule. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DUST CONTROL IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the situation of low dust control in communities we are now realizing that communities are going out of their way to set up roadblocks to raise money to chipseal roads in their communities. I think that's a pretty drastic step to take, but in this case people have to take that step to bring attention to the dismal situation communities find themselves in, especially dealing with dust control.

Over the last number of years communities have requested from this government programs to deal with dust control, to look at main street chipseal, yet I notice that has been excluded again from the budget. I believe that this government has to do everything it can to improve the quality of life in communities, especially dealing with dust control.

Yesterday in a rally that I took part in, this was heard loud and clear from the young people who were taking part in the protest, raising the issue with regard to N'dilo and the condition of roads in the city of Yellowknife's boundaries. I think it's important, being the capital of the Northwest Territories, to do everything we can to let people realize there are not two sides to the capital city. There are the urban dwellers on one side and the people living in Third World standards by way of roads and services. As a government we're responsible for improving the quality of life for all

residents and being fair to all residents when it comes to programs and services.

I believe that this is a trend that communities have to take to get the message out, and start, you know, establishing roadblocks. I think that tells us that we have a problem.

I think it's important that this government tries to find solutions to solve this problem and work with the affected people in those communities in being able to give them what everyone else is taking for granted, such as the chipseal or basically some sort of surfacing for those communities.

I know we've raised this issue in regard to committees of this House. There was the committee on small communities. This was an issue that was raised in their final report.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister to ensure that he does whatever he can to work with these communities to solve this problem.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PRIVATIZATION OF FORT SIMPSON AIRPORT MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Mr. Menicoche: [English translation not provided.]

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents throughout the Nahendeh riding have made it very clear to me through petitions, letters, phone calls and conversations that they do not support the proposed contracting-out of the operations of the Fort Simpson airport.

Today I want to go on record as being opposed to these proposed reductions. Contracting out services that were once provided by public service employees have longer-term impacts that go beyond this cost-cutting exercise.

There's no guarantee that the Department of Transportation will realize any savings through contracting out the operations and maintenance of the airport. We have all seen escalating costs associated with contracts for road maintenance and construction projects.

Contractors face the same pressures as government in terms of their costs, plus they are in the business to make profit. That profit will likely be made up through higher business contracts and lower wages for employees. There's also no guarantee that jobs with the private contractor will benefit the residents or the families of Fort Simpson.

The current operations and maintenance staff at the airport have been with the government for a long time and provide good quality service to ensure our airport is safe and secure. The community and the region have been well served by these government employees. Not only do they provide quality service, they and their families contribute to the economic and social fabric of our community.

The government has not provided my constituents or me with a good business case for contracting out these services. I urge the government to rethink these reductions and maintain airport services in the Nahendeh region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMENTS FROM CONSTITUENTS ON FISCAL REDUCTIONS

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to share with all Members the comments in regard to the budget that I've been hearing from constituents. Not many are positive, unfortunately.

My constituents are asking for justification in public to explain the job reductions, to show why certain positions have been targeted. Most feel that the departments and/or managers did not do any analysis prior to determining which positions should go. Some decisions seemed to be based on a narrow view of personal opinion. Some used the eeny, meeny miny, moe method. Others took advantage of the opportunity presented by the reduction exercise to rid their department or section of employees that they think — that they think, Mr. Speaker — are underperforming. All of these cases indicate no analysis, no forethought, no planning. I think we can coin a new term: the "instant decision."

Some people applaud the government for taking action to be more efficient and to match expenses to revenue. They agree, for instance, that the Arctic Tern facility costs too much for too few inmates.

Many people question the numbers and comparisons in the budget. They find it hard to understand how we can be in such poor financial shape in such a short time. They see the government's comparisons of the 2007–2008 budget figures to the 2008–2009 budget figures as comparing apples to oranges.

Sometimes the Main Estimates from '07–08 are used; sometimes the Revised Main Estimates from '07–08 are used. How can our residents get a true picture from that?

Several people have commented to me that if the financial picture is as bad as the Finance Minister says, why are we investing in new things? They

advise us to get our house in order first and then invest.

They ask about the estimated surplus for the last fiscal year. It's now expected to be about \$25 million more than budgeted. We will likely have a surplus of \$69 million instead of \$44 million. What plans are in place for the unexpected surplus? Last but not least, they cite a lack of consideration for the environment in this budget. It's not only MLAs on this side of the House who are having difficulties swallowing this budget as presented. Many of the NWT residents are frustrated as well. They don't see evidence of comprehensive planning in the budget and they don't feel that there was adequate consultation. I can only agree.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INDUSTRIAL ARTS, HOME ECONOMICS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Mr. Beaulieu: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

During my last constituency visit to Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e many residents were concerned about the lack of industrial arts, home economics and physical education teachers in their school. Aspiring trade students may not pursue journeyman status without getting some experience in those trades. These days with the robust diamond and mining industry, the importance of exposing junior and senior high school students to trades cannot be overemphasized — particularly increasing their employment opportunities, as I mentioned a couple of days ago.

With more and more studies coming out about health impacts of the increased inactivity of today's younger generation, due to the advent of computer and computer-related entertainment, it is more important than ever to have schools provide a quality physical education program. With many young mothers in our communities, every school, particularly in these smaller communities, should be able to have basic resources to provide quality home economics classes and education.

We talk about healthy, vibrant communities, community wellness, healthy choices and healthy lifestyles. Yet in my communities, the youth are unable to get a good start because they cannot participate in a structured physical education program or they are not able to learn about safe work practices, budgeting for food or learning the basics of cooking. Many of their student counterparts in larger communities can. We need to ensure that we can provide these basic yet

important opportunities for our children and youth in all schools and in all communities.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HR PROCESS TO IDENTIFY
POTENTIALLY AFFECTED EMPLOYEES

Mr. Ramsay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to make a statement regarding the budget process and affected employees. I still am not clear on where Cabinet got the direction or the brainwave to send out notification letters to employees without first properly consulting Regular Members. We've talked of this before: it took them three weeks — and I'd like to know what happened in that three-week period — where Regular Members were left out there answering phone calls from constituents without any knowledge of the notification letters and where they were going. This was also months before the actual budget and reductions were even to be discussed and voted on. Sure, it's nice to let people know that they could be affected, but is it not a classic case of putting the cart before the horse?

I'm to understand that the government is already in the process of moving affected employees around. Some have resigned. Some have left the North. Is it just me, or is it not very presumptuous of the government to be operating and making decisions as if the budget has already been approved? I hope the government was paying attention when six Regular Members stood up and voted no to the budget at second reading. Others, as they have indicated, have serious concerns with the document. You will continue to hear these concerns as we move forward with the debate during Committee of the Whole.

It is unfair to our employees, it's unfair to the Members of this Assembly, and it's unfair to the public when government presents a budget that is so obviously flawed. Parents are always telling their children to do their homework and make sure their homework is done. If I was grading the government on whether or not they've done their homework on this budget, they would get an F without question. If you're moving people around, you should be fair to those that are affected. Are all of the affected employees being given fair access to positions? And shouldn't employees inside a department have the opportunity to stay within that department?

In closing, I believe that this government is continually taking the Regular Members of this House for granted. Again, we've not been a part of the government's plan, and this has got to change in order for this budget to get off life support.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY
RESTRAINTS FOR CHILDREN

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I always like to do on Friday, I like to make a special mention of the fact that it's Red Friday so we can support our troops.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury to children of all ages. But those aged between four and nine years old are currently the most vulnerable. Canadian data shows that the death rate from car crashes has dropped in all other age groups, but not for the children between the ages of four and nine. Data also tells us that the majority of Canadian children aged four to nine are riding in seat belts, which puts them at risk for serious injury in car crashes.

Seat belts are designed to fit adult proportions. Children don't generally reach the right size for seat belts until at least the age of nine. When a child is too small for a seat belt, it crosses the wrong places, such as their neck and their stomach. In the event of a crash, a child who is too small for a seat belt can suffer spinal injuries, internal injuries or what the doctors sometimes call seat belt syndrome.

The risk of serious injury and death can be significantly reduced by the use of a booster seat, a simple safety device that raises a child so the seatbelt fits correctly across the shoulders, chest and hip bone. Unfortunately, research shows that less than 30 per cent of Canadian parents who have children between the ages of four and nine use booster seats. Most parents think their children are too big or too old for those seats.

We need to work to address this gap in the protection of our children that are between the ages of four and nine by implementing a public education campaign to give parents good information on the importance of booster seats and on how to tell their children that they need this seat and that they're not too big or too old to have one.

Secondly, we need to pass legislation that requires booster seats. Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, P.E.I., Newfoundland and New Brunswick have all passed booster seat legislation. British Columbia will be implementing new booster seat legislation this summer. The Government of NWT should follow suit and make booster seats mandatory.

In closing, we protect our children with car seats when they're infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. I urge the Minister of Transportation to extend the same degree of protection to our children between

the ages of four and nine by implementing legislation that would cover them. Putting children first is something we should always do. Let's not let this gap continue.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
YELLOWKNIFE ASSOCIATION OF
CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR SENIORS

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to clearly state my support for the government's decision to move forward with the construction of the Aven Cottage Territorial Dementia Centre.

I also want to acknowledge the excellent work of a group of volunteers who serve on the board of the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors, YACCS. They have given freely of their considerable experience, knowledge and time to bring this much-needed centre and other facilities to reality. Our government is providing \$15 million in capital funding for the centre. Additional fundraising is being done to raise money for furniture and fixtures.

The YACCS will operate the Aven Cottage Territorial Dementia Centre, which will house 28 residents from all parts of the NWT and offer daytime recreational activities for five to eight people. Greg Debogorski, executive director of YACCS, says they want the centre to have as much of a home-like environment as possible. People across the North will be very pleased that our seniors with dementia will now be able to stay in the North with appropriate care and closer to family and friends.

Working with the community of Yellowknife, YACCS resolved cost and logistical barriers through an agreement for project management and construction. The efficiency and savings gained have allowed this project to move forward on an affordable basis. But — and there is often a but — I also want to draw Members' attention to the forced-growth costs that YACCS has been experiencing in the operations of another seniors' centre, the Aven Manor. In the fiscal year '07–08, YACCS submitted forced-growth costs of \$38,000 to Health and Social Services to cover the rising costs of utilities, maintenance, taxes, food and insurance. They received zero dollars from the government. In this fiscal year, YACCS submitted for \$83,000 to cover these forced costs in operating the Aven Manor. Again, this government has refused to fund these costs.

Other non-government organizations face identical situations — for example, the YWCA — while the government establishes multi-year flat-funding

despite the rapidly rising costs. Government's commitment to building a new dementia centre is a good thing.... Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Unanimous consent granted.

Mr. Bromley: Mr. Speaker, government's commitment to building a new dementia centre is a good thing, but our government must recognize that forced-growth costs accumulate for non-government organizations just as much as they do for government. We've seen very significant forced-growth figures for government operations in the budget before us today. Putting these same costs on the backs of non-government organizations is hardly fair.

If this government can wipe out over \$11 million in over-expenditures for one institution in Yellowknife — albeit not lightly done — surely they can look after this modest dilemma. Once again, YACCS is a volunteer organization of highly skilled and committed people serving on behalf of all residents.

Mr. Speaker, a big "Yahoo!" to this government for the commitment to build a territorial dementia centre. Now, on the shameful lack of action on providing for forced-growth costs, let's correct this situation. As Mr. Jacobson says: "Let's get it done." Mahsi.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CARELESS LITTERING WITH
CIGARETTE BUTTS

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to talk about something that is a pet peeve of mine. I don't know if anybody's ever seen those pet peeve surveys, but this is a pet peeve of mine. I was reminded of it when Ms. Lee was giving her Member's statement on cigarettes, on smoking.

Mr. Speaker, there's only one thing that amazes me more than the fact that people smoke, and that is the number of smokers who throw their cigarette butts on the ground. Most people understand that littering is not a good thing. We teach our kids that they shouldn't toss litter out the car window and they shouldn't toss their litter on the ground. Occasionally it's been interesting for me to sit outside of a store, like Canadian Tire here in Yellowknife, and watch smoker after smoker after smoker walk up to the door of Canadian Tire and flick their butts on the ground. I just sit there in amazement. I guess they don't think anybody's watching or paying attention.

Mr. Speaker, each year when our snow melts we see the incredible amount of debris and litter on the

ground. Some of it's easy to pick up, but one thing that's not very easy to pick up is those annoying cigarette butts. I think that society has finally got the message that second-hand smoke is not acceptable. I think that most building owners who offer accommodation and service to the public can appreciate not having to deal with all the maintenance associated with cigarette smoke. I don't think that cigarette butts are very biodegradable — they're litter. So if someone can tell me why a person who wouldn't dream of tossing a candy wrapper on the ground wouldn't hesitate for one minute to flick a cigarette butt on the ground, I'd be very curious to hear that answer.

Maybe someone should invent a butt receptacle that could fit inside a smoker's pocket or on one side of the cigarette package and they can carry them around with them. If someone can tell me why I should be expected to facilitate or clean up someone else's cigarette butt, I would gladly receive that explanation, Mr. Speaker. It is something that I surely do not understand.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRADITIONAL HUNTING ACTIVITIES IN NUNAKPUT

Mr. Jacobson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about our traditional activities taking place right now back home in Nunakput. Each year geese return to provide a good source of food for many constituents in Nunakput. Not only food — the traditional activity means families being able to spend quality time together. This is important, because this allows elders the opportunity to pass on more traditional knowledge to the younger generation.

Mr. Speaker, with the high cost of food in all my Nunakput communities, geese hunting provides an important economic food source and is also very healthy. Traditional activities such as geese hunting play an important role for many families all across the North. Although we are in times of fiscal restraint, we cannot forget about the important traditional activities. We must do our part as a government to assist and support traditional, on-the-land and aboriginal language programs. All communities are shore communities, and geese-hunting means travel on both land and sea.

This time of the year also is the time for melting, and I'd like to take the opportunity to remind my constituents in Nunakput, while they are travelling on the land and returning home, to be safe.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DUST CONTROL ON THE DEMPSTER HIGHWAY

Mr. McLeod: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to decide on a topic to speak to today, and I didn't have one until I got in here and I heard my colleague from Mackenzie Delta mention dust. Right away I thought of the Dempster Highway, so I thought that is a good topic to speak of today. It is Friday and a lot of people from Inuvik will be driving out on the highway. I believe the ferries are in, so there will be a lot of traffic on the highways. I think the Department of Transportation relies on dust control, but this time of year all of their dust control melts; it is called "snow."

I had the opportunity last weekend — I was in Inuvik — to go for a picnic, and I couldn't believe the amount of dust that was there. There was a bit of dust control, but I blinked and I missed it. Mr. Speaker, when the dust clears, you realize that you have passed where you were going. It is an awfully dangerous highway. I don't know what it is going to take for the department to realize that they need to do something about that highway. Not only for the travelling public, and it being the 50th anniversary of Inuvik.... We are expecting quite a few visitors for the homecoming. They are going to have to drive that highway, but we have to think about the safety and well-being of the people in the Beaufort-Delta who drive that highway all the time.

We hear some of the Members talk about your highways down here and how terrible they are. I have had the opportunity to drive them, and I tell you: you drive the Dempster Highway and you'll never be complaining about these highways down here again. That's all we are asking. We are not asking to chipseal from Inuvik to the border, even though that would be nice. I hope I am alive to see that day. I probably would have to live for a couple hundred of years to see that. We are not asking for pavement. All we are asking for is some dust control from Inuvik to the NWT border so that we have the opportunity to enjoy some of the same driving conditions you have down here.

We have the opportunity to actually finally see some of the beautiful country on the Dempster Highway — as I've said before, you don't want to take your eyes off the road on that highway because you never know where you are going to end up. It has been proven before Mr. Speaker; unfortunately, we lost a few people to the driving conditions on that highway. I don't think it was because of the driving. I think it was just the state of the highway itself. I'd like to see Transportation seriously look into it. If nothing is going to be done

about it, then changes might need to be made within the department.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 4, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Robert Charlie. He is originally from Fort McPherson; he lives in Inuvik. He used to work for NorthwesTel for over 30 years. He has also been the chair of Gwich'in council since its inception in 1992. I'd also like to mention that Robert's dad was one of the first aboriginal appointees to the Territorial Council in the Northwest Territories. It is those commitments that his dad has made to the Territories...where we are where we are today. Again, Robert is one of the candidates running for the presidency of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and I wish Robert all the best on the campaign trail. I know what it is like to campaign, but have at 'er!

Mr. Menicoche: I'd like to recognize Mrs. Candace Brown, who's actually been watching the proceedings all week. She's a constituent from Fort Simpson. Welcome, and hope you had fun this week.

Mr. Jacobson: Today I'd like to recognize my two Pages from my home community of Tuktoyaktuk, Ms. Caitlin Walker and Ms. Chelsea Raddi, for the good work they've done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McLeod: I'd like to recognize a constituent of mine from Inuvik, Val Robertson, who's here with the UNW and has been watching our proceedings for the past week. Welcome.

Hon. Norman Yakeleya: I, too, want to recognize Val Robinson, a former grade 12 student at Samuel Hearne Secondary School.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: I, too, would like to recognize a couple of Pages in this Assembly: Trina Weyallon from Behchoko and Edie Erasmus from Behchoko. You're doing a great job. Mahsi.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Written Questions

QUESTION 15-16(2) SOMBA K'E HEALING LODGE

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister Responsible for the Housing Corporation.

- 1) Why is the lodge not currently operational?
- 2) Can it be refurbished to be operational?
- 3) What costs are incurred annually by the GNWT for the upkeep and operation of the building?
- 4) What are the total annual costs for this building?
- 5) Since the closure of the facility in 2003 and up to today's date, what is the total dollar amount spent by the GNWT for this facility?
- 6) What are the future plans for this facility?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to the opening address. Item 11, replies to the budget address, day seven of seven. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 10-16(2) SETTING OF SITTING HOURS BY SPEAKER

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 2, 2008, I will move the following motion.

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, Ms. Bisaro. Notices of motion. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

MOTION 11-16(2) NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, June 2, 2008, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories call on the

federal government to extend the housing programs due to expire on March 31, 2009; and further, that the Legislative Assembly strongly urges the Government of Canada to commit to discussing a long-term funding strategy with the provinces and territories; and further, that a copy of this motion be sent to the House of Commons.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, with Bill 8, Tabled Document 37-16(2), Committee Report 6-16(2), Committee Report 7-16(2), with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order.

In consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters is Bill 8, Committee Report 2-16(2), Committee Report 3-16(2), Committee Report 4-16(2), Committee Report 5-16(2), Committee Report 6-16(2), Committee Report 7-16(2), Tabled Document 37-16(2).

What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the wish of the committee today is to proceed with the Main Estimates for the Department of Justice.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

MAIN ESTIMATES 2008–2009 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): At this time I'd like to ask the Minister if he's bringing in any witnesses. Mr. Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses in?

If we can, maybe we can just take a short break until the witnesses get here. Thank you.

The Committee of the Whole took a short recess.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): For the record, Mr. Minister, can you introduce your witnesses?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have Donald Cooper, my deputy minister of Justice, and also Kim Schofield, director of finance, to my immediate left.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses.

When we left off, we were on page 7-35, Community Justice and Corrections. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I seek unanimous consent to go back to page 7-29.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that we go back to page 7-29?

Unanimous consent granted.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Chairman, yesterday a motion was put on the floor to delete ten additional court services positions. I'm just trying to do some follow-up as to understanding the impact of that motion.

I've been led to believe that motion actually deleted some active positions that already exist, as opposed to some brand-new positions. I'm just trying to get some clarity on whether that is or is not the case. Furthermore, if it actually did, can I get the location of where those positions are?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): I do not believe that we can debate a motion that's already been dealt with in this House. We've discussed the motion. It was voted on; it was passed. The motion has been dealt with, and I don't think it's appropriate to just go over an item that's already been dealt with.

If you're asking for a particular position in regard to this item on positions, I think we can ask for clarification from the department, but we're not going back to something that's already been dealt with.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Chairman, there's no intention to re-debate the motion. I'm just trying to get a sense of what the impact was.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Hawkins, could you clarify your point and stick to the topic, which is Courts, Operations Expenditure Summary, in regard to that particular page and not in regard to the motion that was dealt with. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to get an understanding as to the overall impact, not to revisit the motion. I'm just trying to get clarity as to what impact that will have. As I understand it, that impact, now that the decision has been made....

Again, I'm not trying to revisit it, but I'm just trying to get a sense of whether there were active positions rolled up in that, and if there were, how many. Again, if there were, where were they located? That's all. It's for clarification.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Sorry, Mr. Hawkins. I'll have to rule your item out of order. It's already been discussed. We debated it, and basically we're not going back to an item that's been debated and voted upon. So I'll have to rule your question out of order.

We're on page 7-35, Community Justice and Corrections, Operations Expenditure Summary: \$33.826 million. Mr. Bromley.

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My questions are about the elimination of the Sex Offender Relapse Prevention Program and the Family Violence Prevention Program at the North Slave Correctional Centre, programs delivered to men who have been convicted of these offences.

I think it's common knowledge to most of us that the incidence of sex offences in the Northwest Territories is extremely high, second only to Nunavut. Our rate is averaging well over five times the rate in Canada. In fact, we had 156 offences in 2006, which on a rate per 1,000 people is extremely, extremely high.

This program is a vital component to safer communities, which is supposed to be one of this government's priorities. The decision was made, really, without any research or consultation on behalf of those that deliver the programs or their supervisors. Now, that sounds fairly astounding to me.

I understand that there is an independent review of the Justice program that's going on. What if that report comes back and says, "Yeah, this program is essential"? I realize we need to make some cuts, but again, what is this department and what is this Minister going to do if the report of this review comes back and says this is essential programming? I'm already asking the question, given our priorities of prevention and so on: how can this be done?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. There's been some talk about the cutting of the program, the cutting of positions. Just to set the record straight: we're not cutting programs at the correctional centre. The review the Member's referring to is an overall review of the programs that's been undertaken. There are no changes to the programs that we're delivering today. Mahsi.

Mr. Bromley: Mr. Chair, I'm assuming that means the remaining staff will shoulder the workload of the two staff that are being cut, the two staff that currently deliver these sex offender programs. I highly suspect that other staff that already — I would assume — have lots of other responsibilities won't be able to efficiently deliver these programs — efficiently and effectively. Again, it's clear that the people of the Northwest Territories — and, certainly, people on this side of the House — believe that more programming is needed rather than less.

I'd like to know how the department has concluded that existing staff can shoulder the responsibilities of the two affected employees who currently deliver this program. What's the basis of that assumption?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Chair, within Corrections we are moving into a new, more integrated program delivery model that we've initiated, and that is our proposed plan through this Assembly, and with staff at many different levels actively involved. Instead of having only three people delivering the program, many of the employees will deliver them.

We talked about the deletion of positions, but at the same time, there are two vacant positions, and these potentially impacted individuals have the opportunity to take on that role. So that's an area that we are looking at.

Also, we have a program delivery officer as well who will take on that role. So we do have current positions that can certainly continue to deliver this program delivery at the centre. Mahsi.

Mr. Bromley: Mr. Chair, I'm afraid I'm not comfortable putting a lot of weight to the Minister's remarks. I'm aware that there is a request for proposal out currently by the department, closing on the 20th of June, for the delivery of healing and learning programs in Corrections. This is clear evidence that there is a recognition, at some level, for the need for more effective programming, and healing programming specifically, which is what we're talking about here. Can the Minister explain this incongruity to me?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Chair, the Member is referring to an RFP that went out. It reflects on the North Slave Young Offenders Facility, not the North Slave Correctional Centre. Mahsi.

Mr. Bromley: Thank you to the Minister for that clarification. How is it that we're putting out contracts when we have affected employees in this very area of concern with expertise and that could easily assume these responsibilities and save the costs associated with contract administration, et cetera? Where is the staff retention policy on this? I know this is not a question for this Minister, but it is certainly a question for this government.

There are two tracks here, and they're completely missing each other. Why did the Minister not put this together, connect these dots, and avoid the trauma of these two affected employees, when there are clear opportunities for them to be used, and used effectively, in the system with a job that's clearly part of their expertise?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Chair, we'll certainly utilize those impacted employees once they qualify as the case managers. We do have a program delivery officer as well.

The Member is referring to an RFP. The project is funded by the federal government and incorporates traditional aboriginal knowledge that he is referring to. It will enhance the programming already offered at the facility. It is a program funded by the federal government. Mahsi.

Mr. Bromley: Mr. Chair, just a question on that, then: are these yet again new federal dollars, but we've developed this budget assuming that there would be no new federal dollars? Are these dollars that were not expected?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Schofield.

Ms. Schofield: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The federal government funds a program called the IRCS Program, which is an intensive rehabilitation program. This pot of money is associated with a special projects fund, where proposals are submitted to the federal government to provide services for clients that meet the qualifications under the intensive rehabilitation program.

This program will provide additional training to staff at the young offenders facilities — similar to a train the trainer program — as well as do some initial program training with the young offenders at those facilities. It is a one-year project. It's short-term, in the hopes that the staff at that facility, through the development of this program, will be able to carry out that work with young offenders.

Mr. Bromley: When did we learn about these dollars? Did I hear that this was not a contract, that in fact they're expecting staff we already have on board to do this work?

Ms. Schofield: Mr. Chair, the funding was identified in early April, so it was after the development of the Main Estimates document.

The services that are being asked for are for a contractor to develop the program and train the staff to deliver that program to the young offenders on an ongoing basis. It is only one-year funding to get the staff trained up in delivering that type of program to our young offenders.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I actually wanted to deal with a different topic on this particular page, and I have a motion to go with the issue that I wanted to discuss. So if there are other Members who still want to partake in a discussion on this matter, I'll defer.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Abernethy.

Mr. Abernethy: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I want to follow up on my colleague Mr. Bromley's questions.

I hear what the Minister is saying: that you're not cutting programs, that you're cutting positions. But when it comes to the sex offender and the family violence programs, it's my belief and my understanding that in order for those programs to be delivered, you basically need two people to do it: one male, one female. In cutting these positions, you're not necessarily going to have those bodies around to deliver those programs, which means, basically, the programs won't be delivered. I believe that goes against what you're saying. In fact, if the programs can't be delivered, we're not working towards the rehabilitation of the inmates within the facility.

I'm going to try to ask a question that's clear, that we can actually get an answer to, which would be good, a change, great. Can you tell me exactly how — by eliminating these positions and eliminating the two persons, the male and the female, who can deliver these sex offender and family violence programs — the department intends to ensure that these programs continue to be delivered as effectively as they have been? I'll stop there. I won't want to muddy it any more.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Chair, there were three positions. There's been a competition. One of the incumbents was successful. There are two vacancies as case officers. The other two incumbents, to my knowledge, have applied for those jobs and are expected to get them as priority status employees.

These programs are delivered, I'm told, two to three times a year. They take six weeks each, so they're not delivered constantly.

The case managers — the same people — will stop doing case management for six weeks, be backfilled by experienced corrections officers and deliver the program. That's my understanding of how it will work: essentially, the same people delivering the program but under the name of case officer as opposed to a PDO.

I might add that this model is the one that is used in all of our smaller facilities for delivering programs. We were asked to find efficiencies within the system. We've tried to do that. We're satisfied that the programs will not be adversely affected, and

actually, this particular reduction won't result in any layoffs.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Abernethy.

Mr. Abernethy: Thanks, Mr. Chair. A slightly different topic but still in the same area: can you tell me exactly how many female young offenders are housed in Arctic Tern?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): The Minister of Justice.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. To date we have two inmates at Arctic Tern.

Mr. Abernethy: Can you tell me how many female young offenders are currently housed at the North Slave Young Offenders Facility?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Currently we have none at that corrections facility. Mahsi.

Mr. Abernethy: Has the department housed female young offenders at the North Slave Young Offenders Facility in the recent past — one, two years?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Deputy Minister Cooper.

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On a short-term basis that has been done when a female has been arrested here, prior to being taken to Inuvik. For short periods of time that has been done.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Ramsay.

Mr. Ramsay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to cover a lot of the ground. I agree with what my colleagues Mr. Bromley and Mr. Abernethy are saying.

I've been here for just over four years, and I've seen the North Slave Correctional Centre go into the new building. I've had many discussions with the former Minister about the new approach to corrections: how it was going to be holistic, more healing, and how they were going to do some good things there.

I share the concerns of my colleagues that the program delivery officers are being taken out of the sexual offender and family violence programming. That causes me some concern. I listened to the deputy minister's rationale and how the programs will be delivered, but you just have to question whether the frequency, the reliability, will still be there if the programming gets left to case workers and the psychologists, or whoever is going to be delivering the program.

I think there is going to be an impact on the frequency and reliability of the delivery of those programs. I'm not sure why we would, in our largest correctional facility in the territory, want to go to a

model that's followed by some of our smaller facilities.

Again, I know the department was up against the wall in terms of reductions. If you look at the reductions, they're obviously not going to touch the security side of things in corrections. It would be almost impossible to look for reductions there, so programming is the obvious soft spot, I could say, and an area where they could look at reductions. I don't agree with the reductions on the program delivery officers. I think it's a step backwards.

I'd like to find out a little bit more about the program Ms. Schofield talked about — the federal funding — and where it looks like we've applied for federal funding for the YO facility. I'm wondering if we've applied for federal funding under that same program for the adult facility.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): The Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that the federal funding is only provided to the young offenders, not the adults.

Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, I guess the other thing I wanted to talk about was the reduction in the nursing position at North Slave Correctional Centre. There is not going to be any coverage on the weekends, I'm to understand, because of this reduction.

I'm wondering if the department has done any work on trying to figure out what it's going to cost. We've all been to the emergency room at Stanton. It can take six to eight hours to get in to see a doctor there. If that's going to take a corrections guard out of that facility with an inmate to go to the hospital on the weekends to see a doctor, a nurse practitioner or whoever's there, that's just not good enough use of his time. They should be staying in the facility and not having to transport inmates over to the hospital on the weekends.

I'm wondering if the Minister has any idea of the impact that would cause to the operations at the facility on the weekends if guards are going to have to take inmates over to the hospital on a regular basis.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Schofield.

Ms. Schofield: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The nursing position that's been eliminated has been vacant for some time now. It's anticipated that with the reduction in the scheduling, they will be able to accommodate the workload and that there is no plan for any impact on the service provided to our inmates.

Mr. Ramsay: Does that mean there will be full coverage at that facility over the weekend?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: There won't be full coverage, but it's not an everyday occurrence at Corrections. But certainly, that is one area that we did highlight as the Justice Department before we even went to cutting the vacant position. There wasn't much weekend activity. Mahsi.

Mr. Ramsay: My fear is that if there is no coverage on the weekends, inmates are going to want to go to the hospital. If they need to go to the hospital, they are going to go to the hospital, and when they go to the hospital, there is going to have to be a guard or two guards with them when they go. Vacant position or not, I think we need to have coverage at that facility on the weekends.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Certainly there are incidents at the Corrections. The avenue that, I guess, we'll access will be at Stanton. But we will certainly continue to monitor that. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a couple of questions also on the nursing support services for the North Slave Correctional Centre but also for the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre. There is a proposal to reduce funding for these functions by the amount of \$109,000. I have heard now that for North Slave it will be the elimination of a vacant position at the North Slave Correctional Centre. What is proposed to be eliminated in terms of service or people in the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Deputy Minister Cooper.

Mr. Cooper: There is one maintenance position, and it is the only position in that facility, so there is only one affected employee. It has been recommended to senior management that this could be done. The DPW looks after the more sophisticated and complicated repairs and maintenance that need to be done. The COs and the inmates can look after the more minor maintenance matters. We understand that there will be two retirements this summer, and the affected employee is almost certain to get one of those positions as a corrections officer.

Mrs. Groenewegen: To my question, I am not clear. Is there any proposed change to the support at South Mackenzie Correctional Centre for nursing support?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Justice.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Chair, to answer the question for the Member, no, that is not part of the plan. Mahsi.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Can the Minister please tell me: what is the anticipated savings from the

elimination of the vacant position at the North Slave Correctional Centre?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: The proposed savings by eliminating the position would be \$87,000. Mahsi.

Mrs. Groenewegen: So the savings of eliminating a vacant position for a nurse at the North Slave Correctional Centre.... Will there still be a nurse at the North Slave Correctional Centre working Monday to Friday?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Yes, that is correct. There will be a position there.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Why was the position vacant? How long has it been vacant, and why was it vacant?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: We don't have that detailed information at this time, but we can certainly provide that to the Members. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mrs. Groenewegen.

COMMITTEE MOTION 16-16(2)
TO REINSTATE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$109,000 FOR NURSING POSITIONS AT
YCC AND SMCC
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Mrs. Groenewegen: I have a motion I'd like to move. We don't have that information. It would be helpful to have that information in our deliberations here to help us make decisions. Since we don't have that information, I'm going to make a motion.

I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to reinstate funding in the amount of.... We're going to have to amend the motion here. Can I just get some clarification? Let me read the motion, and then I'll find out if that needs to be changed.

I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to reinstate funding in the amount of \$109,000 for the proposed elimination of nursing positions at the South Mackenzie and North Slave correctional centres under the Department of Justice, under Community Justice and Corrections.

Mr. Chairman, that's my motion, and I'm now hearing from the Minister that there is no anticipated change at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre and, in fact, the only position being eliminated is the one position at the North Slave Correctional Centre, for a savings of \$87,000. Do we need to amend the motion, or what?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Excuse me. We do have a motion that's been put on the floor. We have a motion. It's been read out. We'll circulate the

motion, and then we'll deal with the motion. We're circulating the motion.

To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question which might clarify the difficulty we're having with the dollar amount. When the department numbers were discussed at the Social Programs Committee, we were given information that indicated that a nurse position at SMCC for a value of \$22,000 was going to be reduced. If, as the Minister has advised, that position is not being reduced, could the department advise what that \$22,000 reduction is related to? That might help us out here.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Again, we're dealing with the motion. At this time we can only discuss the motion. You can't ask questions to the Minister. I'd like to ask the mover of the motion, Mrs. Groenewegen, to the motion.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the motion, which is to recommend that the government reinstate the \$109,000 for any proposed reductions to nursing services at the North Slave Correctional Centre and the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, I would like to say that I believe these are important services, and they are there to ensure that the corrections officers are not having to extend their time dealing with health issues. I think that the funding for them should be reinstated.

Our motion is premised on information that we received from the Department of Justice. If that information has changed, so be it, but this is the information we have before us. This is the information that we're going to vote on.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): To the motion.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): The question has been called.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Maybe at this time we'll take a short break.

The Committee of the Whole took a short recess.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We have a quorum, so we'll reconvene. We're on page 7-35, Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, operations and expenditures. Do we have any questions? Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: There was a program that was in place with the TI'oondih Healing Society in Fort

McPherson, where we were looking at developing a program which was implemented for, I believe, three clients who went through three different times with the program. The whole intention of the program was to reintegrate inmates back into their communities and to allow them to deal with some of their issues so that they don't re-offend. But it also tried to make them aware, to be able to cope with society but, more importantly, to deal with their issues before they're released from prison.

In regard to that program, there was supposed to be a report done on that in regard to the program itself. It was a pilot project. I know we worked with the Department of Justice and the TI'oondih Healing Society. A lot of work and effort has gone into that. We still have wilderness camps, but I think this was one step up on that. I'd like to ask the Minister: exactly what's the status of that program, and is that something that the department will continue to look at?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Certainly reintegrating clients or inmates back to the community is an important step to our process. I will look further into what the Member is alluding to. That will be our commitment from Justice. We'll certainly look into that.

Mr. Krutko: In regard to this government and the situation we find ourselves in, I think we have to start looking more in line with NGOs and non-government organization institutions that have the infrastructure and the ability to work with clients. I think one area this government could probably save a lot of money in is with travel, transportation, court costs and whatnot, and sending inmates to institutions. We all know the estimated cost to house someone in a correctional facility is up to \$85,000 a year.

As a government we have to look at how best to serve inmates, for one thing. The other thing is to integrate them back into our communities with some sort of a program that they have to take. We have to ensure that once they get through the justice system, there is some way of dealing with the core reason that these individuals seem to be in this cycle of continuously going through the justice system.

Regardless of what the issues are — alcohol, drugs or crime in general — these areas are bothering them, and I hate to blame anyone for any particular problem. A lot of this stuff originates from residential schools and values that originate in the home. I think you can go back to a lot of these individuals and you can track their family tree and realize that this is not unique just to them.

I'd like to ask the Minister: is the department looking at trying to integrate justice programs out of large centres, where we're worried about overcrowding and costs associated with running these larger facilities, and re-profiling some of those costs to programs such as the Tl'oondih Healing Society, and working with non-government organizations to provide the services we aren't able to develop in-house and use the services of other organizations?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Chairman, with our department they have done some work in this area. Like I said earlier, one of the important steps was reintegrating inmates into communities, and it is one of our important milestones. We have initiated pilot projects in the communities, such as the Sahtu exploration area, where inmates were taken out on the land for various weeks. We've done that a couple of years now. We are looking at other communities as well to do a pilot project there. What the Member is referring to is the NGOs in the community and that possibly programs could be delivered at the community level.

There is one area that we are also exploring: how we can improve our programming in the communities. It all depends on those organizations that deliver the programs, if they have the capacity and so forth. Certainly we'll continue to work with those communities that are interested in delivering those programs. We will continue to improve our program delivery to the communities.

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Chairman, this is my last question for the Minister. I'd like to ask the Minister: is there a possibility that I can get a copy of the evaluation of the program that was run at the Tl'oondih camp in Fort McPherson. There were, I believe, three programs. There was an evaluation and assessment of that program, but I've never seen a copy. The Tl'oondih Healing Society has asked me to get a copy, because they want to know what worked, what didn't work and what went wrong, so that they can improve the program but also see how they can directly enhance it. I'd like to ask the Minister if it's possible that I can receive any documentation on that program in light of the pros and cons of what happened with that program.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Chairman, it is important for Members to be aware of what's happening within their respective ridings. Certainly our Justice department will share with the Member the documents if there is a report being done. What we have within our department we're more than willing to share with the Member.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions. I wanted to revisit the issue of nursing positions and the reductions in nursing

positions. I think we're clear on what's been reduced at the North Slave Correctional Centre, but as I mentioned in my question that I didn't get to ask earlier, the information the social programs received indicated that there was a \$22,000 reduction in a nurse position at SMCC. As the Minister stated earlier, there is no reduction in nursing positions at SMCC, but there is a reduction in a maintenance position. Could I get an explanation for this \$22,000 reduction, please?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. As in the previous discussion we had earlier, that issue has already been dealt with by motion. I'm going to have to rule that question out of order. Are there any other questions? Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you. I'll try my other one, then. I could challenge it, but I won't. My other question has to do with the intensive rehabilitative custodies program. It was raised earlier by I think Mr. Bromley and Mr. Abernethy. There was an indication that we received money from the federal government for this particular program. I look at the revenue summary on page 7-10, and I see \$150,000 in 2007-2008, but I don't see any money in 2008-2009 for intensive rehabilitative custody. So if I could get an explanation of how the funding from the federal government is being managed, when was it received. Has it been carried over from last year to this year? How is the program being funded?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Ms. Schofield.

Ms. Schofield: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding agreement for that program had ended as of March 31, 2007. The agreement from the federal government did not arrive in time for the preparation of the Main Estimates for 2008-2009. The confirmation of net funding for the coming year arrived after the Mains had already been prepared. Therefore it's not in the Mains at this point. It would require supplementary funding in the department's budget.

Ms. Bisaro: Thanks. These finances are going over my head, so I'll have to ask for a bit of an explanation. So we've received money from the federal government. How much is it? I guess, then, the point is that in order for the federal money to be used in 2008-2009, we would have to have it added back in, in order to actually use the money that we got from the feds in 2008-2009. Is that correct?

Ms. Schofield: Yes, that is correct.

Ms. Bisaro: Since we've had a bit of a windfall, so to speak, of federal money, I would suggest strongly to the Minister that he consider doing that. We probably would do that on this side of the House, speaking only for myself, of course.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Until the Members make some sort of a recommendation, all I can say at this point is that I will consider it.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I asked questions about the nursing positions before, which I understand has been dealt with by a motion — and I don't want to ask you about the nursing positions — it precipitated a response from the deputy minister about the maintenance officer position at South Mackenzie Correctional Centre. The deputy minister indicated that position was the one that was targeted as an affected position. I'm looking at some follow-up to the information that was provided, and not for information related to the rest of the motion.

The maintenance position was the one that is potentially affected. The deputy minister mentioned that there are a couple of retirements coming up at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre this summer. What's the process for trying to ensure that that person in the maintenance officer position, who is a fully qualified corrections officer, gets connected into those positions? I mean, you get a letter; you're an affected employee. There are these vacancies coming up. What's the process. Does that maintenance officer, who's been there 15 years, then apply for that? Is that something that's done internally? How does that process work? I was wondering how we connect that employee with those vacant positions.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The individual is an affected employee and as such has priority status for any job for which he is qualified. Member Groenewegen is correct. This employee is a former CO and will have an opportunity to apply on that, and, given priority status, absent some facts that we're unaware of, will get the position.

Mrs. Groenewegen: A while back, when the remand facility at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre was closed, there were five positions identified for elimination but only through attrition. I'd like to know: are we still on about that, or has that been taken care of? Have enough people left to accommodate that commitment that was made at that time? I just want to make sure, with these retirements that are coming up or people who are voluntarily leaving or retiring, that those don't somehow get categorized as those attrition positions that were kind of left over from when the remand operation shut down.

Mr. Cooper: The Member is correct. There were five positions that were to be eliminated through attrition. At the present time there is one remaining unfunded position. I mentioned that we're anticipating and we've been given notice of two employees intending to retire this summer. One of those will clear off the remaining unfunded position, and one of them will become a vacant position that can be accessed by those on priority status.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Just one further clarification. So these two positions will be coming up sometime this summer, but how long are the people who are affected employees...? How long does that priority staff retention policy apply to them? At what point does somebody say, "The date has come and gone. There were no positions, and therefore there are no more options for that"? When an affected employee has been notified, how long does that apply for?

Mr. Cooper: The employee, as I understand it, has eight weeks of priority within the employee's department and then another 13 weeks on the staff retention policy, another 13 weeks government-wide. So that should last, given that the notices won't be given until late June or July, until the end of 2008.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Next on our list is Mr. Ramsay.

COMMITTEE MOTION 17-16(2)
TO REINSTATE FUNDING IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$45,000 FOR PROGRAM
DELIVERY OFFICERS AT YCC
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Ramsay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee strongly recommends that government take immediate action to reinstate funding in the amount of \$45,000 for the proposed reduction of two program delivery officers at North Slave Correctional Centre under the Department of Justice, under the Community Justice and Corrections Activity.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The motion is on the floor. The motion is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Ramsay.

Mr. Ramsay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had a great deal of discussion on the program delivery officers at North Slave Correctional Centre. I won't go over everything again, but suffice it to say, I believe there's some question on this side of the House whether or not the frequency and the reliability of programming at that centre is going to be impacted as a result of these two program delivery officers being let go. I also wanted to say again for the record, I believe decisions like this fly in the face of the government's overall goal of having safer communities. Without programming,

quality programming, timely programming at North Slave Correctional Centre for the inmates who are there that are going to end up back in our communities.... They need to have that programming, so that when they do go back to our communities, they are rehabilitated to the best of our ability, anyway.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask for a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion, Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have, in this building, probably the lone experience of actually being a former employee of the corrections system. I used to work at the old corrections centre as a guard for a number of years, and I had some experience in many of the areas through administration and whatnot. I know from my experience of working at the centre that a lot of inmates are there due to certain problems, and the reason they're there a lot of times has to do with alcohol. Then we end up having subsequent problems that fall out of the issue, that continue to go on and spiral.

The point I'm trying to make is that the road to recovery takes a lot of paths. By reducing any programming, I think you take away from the potential for any rehabilitation. That's my concern. The whole principle there is to give people a fresh start. They've made some errors in their ways and move forward on the good step. If we take away an opportunity, I think we don't just do the inmate a harm, I think we do society as a whole and injustice, because what we're doing is putting people back out on the streets without that type of support mechanism, when they could be taking something useful to move forward.

I can appreciate why certain reductions come forward and whatnot. At this time I just can't support how this reduction is being put forward, because of how I understand the program and my experience of seeing it work. I'll be voting in favour of this motion because I think it's something that delivers real value.

Mr. Chairman, just in closing, when you have people sitting there 24 hours a day, and while they're probably only thinking about (a) how to get out and (b) how to make the guards' lives miserable, we need to give them positive notes and positive things to look forward to and certainly to work towards. Mr. Chairman, I felt it important to make sure that it was said — that this goes deeper than just the centre. I think it has a negative effect on the territorial communities at large.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I just want to highlight why we've proposed. There's no implication on the program itself. It does not jeopardize the program. The program does continue to be delivered at these corrections. At the same time, Mr. Chair, what we're proposing here are some changes to the current positions that we have, and there are also vacant positions. These two individuals that are potentially impacted will certainly have the opportunity to move up to another position — case managers. They do have many years of experience. They have a really good chance of fulfilling these positions, and it is the same people who will be delivering that particular program. So really, at the end of the day, you probably won't see any layoffs due to that fact, once these two positions are filled by current individuals.

So that's part of the reason why we proposed this, Mr. Chair. We were given a target — being cost-effective and also effective program delivery — so we felt the need to reduce those two positions but at the same time to fill another two positions, possibly with the two same individuals.

So with that, Mr. Chair, I just want to remark that as part of our mandate as Justice, we'll be moving forward on this, just for the record. We're not impacting on a program delivered at these corrections. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. To the motion, Mr. Ramsay.

Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, before we go to the vote on this, I did want to close out the discussion. I think what you see in this motion runs through this entire discussion that we're having on the '08–09 budget. It's no fault of the Justice Minister; it's no fault of the departmental staff. The reductions that are proposed to take place have not been well thought out, have not been well planned, have not been well communicated, and that is the fundamental issue that I have. Some of the other Regular Members share those concerns, Mr. Chairman.

It's all nice and good for the Minister to say that there is a possibility that the two impacted employees in this program area are going to move up to case management or they're going to get other positions. That's all fine and good. Once that decision is made, will that actually happen? I don't know. Who's communicating that to the employees? I don't think anybody's communicating that to the employees. I don't think the management at the facility is communicating that. It's the first I've heard of that.

I think this is just a systemic problem of poor planning and poor communication on the budget in its entirety. This motion is just a microcosm of that.

Again, in practice, will it impact the frequency and the reliability of program delivery at that centre? I think it will, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion.

Some Honourable Members: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

Principal Clerk of Operations (Ms. Bennett): Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Robert McLeod, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Menicoche.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

Principal Clerk of Operations (Ms. Bennett) Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Michael McLeod, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Members, the results of the recorded vote are in: ten in favour, zero opposed, six abstaining.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We're still on page 7-35, Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, Operations Expenditure Summary: \$33.826 million. Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 18-16(2)
TO REINSTATE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$83,000 FOR THE PROGRAMS/PROJECTS
COORDINATOR POSITION
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to make a motion.

I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to reinstate funding in the amount of \$83,000 for the proposed elimination of the program/projects coordinator position under the Department of Justice under the Community Justice and Corrections activity.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The motion is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This \$83,000 references a coordinator position for the Community Justice program within the Department of Justice. I feel quite strongly that the explanation the department gave us during our briefing wasn't quite adequate.

One of the goals of the department is stated as, to increase the capacity and the role of communities to address Justice issues. And I think the department, along with this particular position as well as funding for various and sundry Community Justice projects, is pretty much gutting anything that Community Justice committees can do in our various communities.

Within the last Assembly, there were a number of gains that were made in relation to Community Justice, where programs were set up. This position of a coordinator was established. It was unfortunately never filled. The department has advised us that certainly the funding for Community Justice projects wasn't fully subscribed to.

I think most of the reason for that lack of subscription to the Community Justice funding was the fact that there wasn't a coordinator to assist the various communities in the work that they want to do as a Community Justice committee.

My understanding is that where Community Justice committees exist, they're really quite effective. They do good work within the communities, and I think they're really a positive influence on justice issues within the communities and difficulties with criminal activities and so on. So I really feel that removing this position at this point, even though it's vacant, is not going to assist communities who currently don't have a Community Justice committee; it certainly is going to be of no assistance to them in establishing Community Justice committees.

I think that it's something that certainly needs to be there. We could perhaps cut some of the project funding, but without a coordinator to manage and to assist communities in their Community Justice activities, I think it's just not going to succeed.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion, Mr. Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The program delivery that we're talking about, the motion that's before us, the \$83,000.... Part of the reason why we're moving forward on this is that there is also additional funding, as we indicated earlier, from the federal government, that does all sit in these areas. We will continue to work with our federal counterparts in that particular area. Part of the reason why our department came down on these items is that we are moving in that direction, where the money's allocated from the feds. One of these areas that we're talking about — that's also a vacant position.

So, Mr. Chair, I think we are, as a Justice Department, moving at the right direction, to be an efficient government where, as a department, we're highlighting where we need to improve in the spending to the communities. And we'll fully utilize the funding that we're receiving from the feds on to

the communities. We will continue to do that. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you. Just to wrap up before we go to the question, I appreciate the Minister's response. But I feel very strongly that giving money to a community without any resource for them to assist them in properly applying that money is pretty much throwing good money after bad.

I think that this coordinator is necessary to assist communities that currently don't have Community Justice committees — to get them established and to also assist those that do have those committees to be more efficient and to operate better.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The question is being called.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We're still on page 7-35. Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 19-16(2)
TO REINSTATE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$85,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO
COMMUNITY JUSTICE ACTIVITIES
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to propose a motion.

Mr. Chair, I move that this committee strongly recommend that the government take immediate action to reinstate funding in the amount of \$85,000 for the proposed reduction and contributions to communities for Community Justice activities under the Department of Justice and under the Community Justice and Corrections Activity.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is being distributed. The motion has been distributed. To the motion, Mr. Bromley.

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This government is supposedly about prevention. One of our goals is sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. One of our priorities is a focus on prevention by promoting healthy choices and lifestyles.

The lack of a coordinator, as was recently discussed, has not helped the situation. The communities are in a situation where they need some help. There are some obvious community

capacity challenges. There is clearly an unequal distribution of income across the North, with our smaller communities especially — some of the areas where these dollars are most effectively spent — being on the short end of the stick.

It's clear that if we're going to really be effective and efficient in pursuing our priorities, programs such as this need to continue. If we get federal dollars, I'm sure we'll be able to put them in, in addition to this, and increase the effectiveness of the program. But, Mr. Chair, we need to be at the plate here, especially when these are our self-identified priorities. And on that basis, I am strongly recommending this motion.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I, too, am strongly in favour of the funding staying in the department for this function.

In the little bit of interaction we've had with the Elders' Justice Committee in Fort Resolution, it was positive for the whole community. They're playing a positive role. It would be good to see the money remain there. Although I'm not sure that it's exactly affecting that particular group, I'm sure it will be affecting other groups across the North.

The elders still talk about attending court and seeing first-hand and having a role in how justice is dealt with in a community. I think that without this money, it's possible that justice will be taken outside the community. I think it's important that people living within their own communities administer justice for the people in their own communities.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion, Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. This area will be offset by contribution funding received from the federal government through the Aboriginal Justice Strategy initiative, which will be a vested interest in supporting programs outside a formal justice system, onto the communities.

Basically, this puts back into this particular program that we're referring to. We are highlighting areas where we need to be creative and where we can improve in certain areas and where we can be cost-effective with our program delivery. We are maximizing our efforts into the communities, especially with respect to the programming. That's part of the reason why we're putting this forward, because we are getting federal funding that does offset these costs that are before us.

Mr. Chair, I'd just like to highlight, for the record, that there is money coming in from the feds that do offset this particular cost. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. McLeod.

Mr. McLeod: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A couple of comments to the motion. I've been listening to the Minister's last two comments he's made to the motion previous and this one here. What I've heard in both is that we're being offset by federal funding and that one position is vacant.

This is another example of miscommunication. When the department was before Social Programs, I did not hear that. I did not hear that this was being offset by federal money. I heard "reductions to community." That's the magic word: community. That's a word I use a lot in here. We look at it as money being taken from the community and being put into ten new positions in Yellowknife. I don't know where it's going, but I continue to have a concern with that.

This is a prime example again of information that should have been shared with the committee at the time we had our discussions on the Justice budget. Had that happened, you would not see some of the motions that are coming before us here.

The more information that we have as a committee, the better judgment we can make and the more informed we are. It's just miscommunication.

I admit that it's some of the Members' first time as Ministers going through the budget process, but still, the department has been there for a long time. They should share that information with the Minister so he could share it with committee, and we'll avoid a lot of this stuff that we've had to go through the last couple of days.

It's just another good example, Mr. Chair, of miscommunication. Telling us the information as we're bringing the motions forward is too little too late, in my opinion.

Mr. Chair, I'm in favour of this recommendation, and I hope the government does seriously have a look at the recommendations that we've made, as 11 Regular Members, because it's something that we all feel quite strongly about.

Again I'll say that proper communication would have helped solve a lot of the problems that we have over on this side. We've seen it from the beginning of this whole budget process, where there wasn't proper communication. When you get calls from employees that are saying they're getting affected letters and we didn't even know about it, is that communication? I don't think so.

We made a commitment to work as all 19 Members of this Assembly, to try to bring some of our issues forward. I'm encouraging Cabinet not to forget that. It makes your job a lot easier, having us on board. It makes our job a lot easier, having the information that we can then pass on to our constituents and not have to answer after the fact.

I've heard the term "proactive" a few times. We talked about being proactive, proactive, but that's not happening. That's just a nice word that we decided to use, and I'm just as guilty as the next guy. We're reacting to a lot of the information that we're hearing, and it's just misinformation, miscommunication.

I think today's a good lesson in seeing that we're going to have to change that. Otherwise, we're going to be going in circles for the next four years.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion, Mr. Bromley.

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have to back up those comments and just say that my door is open. I'm sure all of my colleagues' doors are open for communication on items such as this. So just to reconfirm: my perspective is that of Mr. Ramsay on the last motion, and Mr. McLeod. We need some better communication.

Unfortunately, this also takes a toll on people, and I hope, in this situation, the toll is less than in the last couple of things we've discussed. There could have been an avoidance of a lot of this sort of kerfuffle.

I just want to note again that the general pattern that I see in this budget, particularly with Justice, is a detraction from prevention while concentrating resources in the courts, which is putting people in jail. I don't think that's totally consistent with our priorities.

I just wanted to add those additional comments.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The question is being called.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We're still on page 7-35, Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, Operations Expenditure Summary. Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 20-16(2)
TO REINSTATE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$265,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO
SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITY
JUSTICE ACTIVITIES
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Menicoche: Mr. Chair, I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to reinstate funding in the amount of \$265,000 for the proposed elimination of special projects contribution funding for Community Justice Activities under the Department of Justice under the Community Justice and Corrections Activity.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The motion is being distributed. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to get some more information on the....

Some Honourable Members: You can't ask questions.

Ms. Bisaro: Speak to the discrepancy.

Mr. Beaulieu: Okay. The total reduction in this area has been \$433,000 just in these last three motions. The department had indicated to us that that was offset by the federal government. I'm only seeing an offset of \$170,000. To me, it still seems like a fairly substantial cut, so I'm going in favour of the motion.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion, Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. This particular program, this special projects funding of \$265,000, has been utilized to some degree in the communities — for instance, a skidoo trip to another community. But again, there is offset funding from the feds. The National Crime Prevention Centre has funding of \$476,000 set aside for NWT projects. So this funding will certainly go towards these initiatives that are before us.

There is money out there that we're tackling as the Justice department. Like I said earlier, we're being innovative and creative, and going outside our Justice department and going after the federal government.

The federal government is more than willing to play a greater role in supporting the community-based programming. We did stress to them, through the FPT meetings, that we are unique in the North, and they are finally listening to us.

In reintegrating inmates into the communities — the On the Land Program — we've highlighted all that to them. Now they want to play a greater role, and

we are taking advantage of that. We feel that the monies that have been committed previously can be allocated to more effective and efficient areas.

Mr. Chair, once again, just for the record, there is federal money that is being played here. The federal government is willing to play a greater role. I think we need to continue to take advantage of that offer from the feds and that we will continue to do that. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. To the motion, Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: I will be supporting the motion. I think, if anything, we can enhance programs by using federal money and our own dollars, and deal with justice issues, and allow the communities the ability to deal with systemic problems in our communities, from youth and justice, to issues in regard to apprehensions and around the whole community decision-making process, to allow communities to be in the decision-making process of Justice — not to leave it up to the courts, but trying to find solutions in our communities to deal with the criminal matters that we see systemic in our communities.

We're seeing more and more drug-related crimes in our communities. We're seeing more and more young justice issues coming forward. If we can deal with these issues in our communities, trying to solve the issues at the front line, I think it will go a long way to saving government money in the long term. Also, it gives our communities the feeling that they are part of the justice system, by way of developing programs and services that meet their needs.

Every community is unique; every community's different. I think it's important that we do change the way we deliver justice in the Northwest Territories, and this is one of the ways that we're looking at for doing that.

I, for one, would like to state that any time we get federal dollars, we're able to enhance our programs, not cut our programs because we assume we're going to get federal dollars. Everybody knows, with the federal government having an election looming around the corner, that money is here today, gone tomorrow, and it all depends on what happens in Ottawa. So I don't think we should put much hope in those dollars actually falling in our lap any time soon.

Again, I'd just like to state that I'm supporting this motion. But I think, if anything, if we can enhance justice in our communities and allow communities the ability to develop programs and services that improve the quality of life for the residents in those communities, we should do everything we can to assist them.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion, Mr. Bromley.

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Very briefly, I want to back up my colleague with additional remarks there.

In this government we developed a capacity, a community capacity. I think that's an agreed-on priority and way of operating in the North. But it requires consistency over time. I think that's recognized.

It would be nice to know, with these federal dollars, of course — had we been talking about them — how long they're established for and so on, because I don't want to see us undermining our capacity and that of the communities for a one-time federal program that might last two years and then disappear, and we're left without capacity and the corporate knowledge to deliver those programs in our priority areas.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the risk of being repetitive, I want to state again that it has been stated that there hasn't been a full uptake on these programming funds for Community Justice. And at the risk of being repetitive, I want to state that without a coordinator, it's quite understandable that the funds haven't been taken up.

A coordinator will allow communities to have some leadership, to give them some guidelines to follow. And to reiterate what's been said by the two previous speakers, we need to start dealing with justice issues at a community level as opposed to a territorial and on a court basis.

I think Community Justice committees are the way to go. Deleting this funding is only going to make it more difficult, not easier, for us to advance that program.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

Some Honourable Members: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The question is being called.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): All right. We're still on page 7-35, Justice, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, Operational Expenditures Summary, \$33.826 million. Agreed?

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, Operations Expenditure Summary: \$33.826 million, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We're on page 7-37, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, Grants and Contributions. Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can I get a breakdown on exactly the Community Justice committees and projects so that I can see exactly where the projects are and what communities are listed, and also so that I can understand which communities aren't part of this process?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. We do have some breakdown of per capita funding, with all the five regions: North Slave, South Slave, Inuvik, Sahtu and Deh Cho. I am not sure if you want to get into each community and how much they are getting. I can do that if the Member wants.

Mr. Krutko: Just to be fair to the Members, as some of us are not part of the Social Programs Committee, it would be good if we could get that information. Just have it distributed in the House, and maybe before we conclude your department, give us an opportunity to look at that. Also, maybe if there is any information on the other programs listed on that page, it would be helpful.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. We can certainly make that available to the Members. Yes, certainly we can do that.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to get an explanation. The Community Justice committees and projects amount in '08-09 is \$1.371 million, in '07-08 it was \$1.866 million, and I suspect the reduction is the \$433,000-some that we were discussing earlier. But of the \$1.371 million earmarked for these contributions, I'd like to know how much of that amount is federal dollars, and if I could also know where those dollars are reflected in the budget.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Ms. Schofield.

Ms. Schofield: Of the \$1,371 million there are no federal dollars allocated within that amount. The funding from the federal government came to us late in the year, and therefore will be dealt with through supplementary appropriation.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Ms. Bromley. I mean, Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: I don't know if that's worse for Mr. Bromley or worse for me.

Laughter.

Ms. Bisaro: We'll have to start calling you Mr. Bisaro, I think.

I thank you for the answer. I guess, since it is my understanding that the government at this point can add funds into the budget, or can add items to the budget, I am wondering why the Minister wouldn't consider a motion to amend the Mains to add those federal dollars into this '08–09 budget.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. That is something we need to look at. It is part of the process of going through the Main Estimates. Certainly we'll take that into account.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The request by MLA Krutko on the distribution of the money for Community Justice committees and then the response from Minister Lafferty on the federal funding.... I was wondering if it would be possible to indicate that, also in addition to the request from Mr. Krutko, if the federal money, once they have determined where it is going to go.... I am assuming they already know, since they made the cut. In accordance with that, I would like to have the federal funds incorporated into Mr. Krutko's request also.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I believe that we can certainly provide that information that we have at our disposal.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Bromley.

Page 7-37, Community Justice and Corrections, Activity Summary, Grants and Contributions. Agreed?

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, Grants and Contributions, Contributions: \$2.061 million approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Page 7-38, information item, Department of Justice, Community Justice and Corrections, Active Positions. Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Beaulieu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The same line of questioning on this from me, as I am still not clear on how the positions, the PYs, are being reported. I just want clarification on why there are only nine positions in headquarters Yellowknife, and 136 positions in the region, and also 69 positions in the Fort Smith region. I am trying to

determine if the department is counting these positions by where the individual is located or if it is a question of function.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. These positions that are highlighted here are based on each region's.... The corrections or programs that are being delivered. It is not necessarily a headquarters position, but those are positions like Hay River, the South Slave Corrections. Those are the positions that are in that riding.

Mr. Beaulieu: My understanding of reporting PYs is that it is supposed to be by function. I am just trying to determine if all of government reports PYs the same way, or if some departments choose to report PYs in different manners. My understanding is that the North Slave region just happens to be where the location of the corrections facility is. Also, the Fort Smith region happens to be the location of the other corrections facility, which is based in Hay River. But that is not exclusively responsible for working in the South Slave region or the Fort Smith region only. The North Slave Correctional Centre is not only servicing North Slave.

My understanding is that a regional position works in the region and for the region, but if these positions are providing services to the whole territory, it should be recorded as a headquarters position. It skews the way we view whether or not cuts are being done in the region or headquarters, or whatnot. Again, going back to the comment made by the Minister yesterday that 80 per cent of their positions are in the region.... They may actually be located in them, but I think that it is a headquarters function. I am just trying to get more of an explanation on why these are considered regional positions.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Cooper: Perhaps the easiest way to respond to this is to say that if you have employees in the courthouse building who are providing functions for the delivery of corrections services throughout the Territories — be they River Ridge, or the Women's Correctional Centre in Smith, or the South Mackenzie in Hay River, or Arctic Tern, or any of our probation officers. And the same is true of Community Justice; those are going to be headquarters positions.

For those who are front-line, as well as service delivery people that are running our institutions, the young offenders' facilities and so forth, they show up in the regional breakdown. For instance, North Slave would be mostly probation officers and staff at the North Slave Correctional Centre and the young offender facility.

With Fort Smith, the two institutions there, and a probation officer....

Interjection.

Mr. Cooper: Three institutions? Yes, of course. Three institutions there. So those who are in the courthouse building providing executive function for the entire system are headquarters positions. All others are regional.

Mr. Beaulieu: I would like to see if the Minister could provide this request, to myself or to the committee in writing, for how they count their headquarters and regional positions. I don't believe that everybody in all of the departments is reporting regional and headquarter positions in the same manner. This, I think, downloads a lot of headquarter positions into the regions that are actually headquarter functions. There are headquarters positions in other communities. That's fairly well understood. But every opportunity that the government gets to report them as a regional position, it seems to happen.

I actually want to know.... I guess the simple question is: are they reporting it by the function or what the role is, for them to determine whether or not they're a regional position or a headquarters position? My understanding is that it really has little to do with function but rather where individuals are located. Even a corrections officer that's located in Hay River is providing the service to the whole territory, not just the South Slave. So I would like to get that in writing.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Certainly for our Justice Department we can give a breakdown of how these positions are located and where they're located, the regions versus the headquarters. We will be more than happy to give a breakdown in writing to the Members.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Chair, I seek unanimous consent to go back to 7-37, please.

Unanimous consent granted.

Mr. Krutko: Mr. Chair, the information that's been distributed from the Minister.... I notice the money is distributed based on per capita. We're always pounding on Ottawa's door and saying that per capita doesn't work for us in the Northwest Territories and we have to change that system. I'm wondering: have you ever looked at base-plus funding for these programs? Everybody realizes that any program, no matter what it is, always has up-front costs — administration costs, overhead costs — that we have to look at. In this case I'd just like to know: has it ever been looked at to have some sort of base-plus funding for these types of

funds? We're contributing to community organizations in the area of Justice. We realize that there is an administration cost associated with these organizations. I'd just like to ask: has that been thought of or considered — how these dollars are evaluated?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Chair, that is certainly highlighted. We've already initiated with other departments and also with the federal government, so I think we are slowly moving in that direction. When we talk about per capita funding, that's before us. So certainly the Member's comments are taken into consideration. I think that's an avenue that we need to explore with our Justice department and with other departments as well.

Interjection.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: I've just been informed that we do have base funding as well. But certainly, Mr. Chair, we will explore that area. It's all based on the needs of the communities, so we'll do what we can as a department to work with the Members and figure out what are the best options, what we've been providing for the past few years and how we can improve in that area. Certainly we'll be open to discussion in that area. Mahsi.

Mr. Krutko: Also in regard to the amount of the contribution, it's \$700,000. But I know under the budget item it's \$1.3 million, so we're short roughly \$600,000. I'm just wondering where the other \$600,000 is expended. More importantly, I notice that the John Howard Society received the most money from among everyone. Is that the group that's been contributed to in Yellowknife? Yellowknife's not on the list either.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Ms. Schofield.

Ms. Schofield: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You are correct. That is only a portion of the funding that's available. There is funding provided, which the Minister alluded to — core funding — where each community gets an amount of money to fund a coordinator to assist the Community Justice committees in their activities. So there is that funding, as well, that is part of this. So each community receives that funding whether they have an active Community Justice committee or not. Those funds go toward assisting them in developing their committees.

Mr. Krutko: But again, on a similar argument of base-plus funding, I think they should have coordinators. If you want to have a program to run, you have to have someone overseeing it. It shouldn't be simply given to them on the basis that if they don't have a coordinator, they still get it. I think it comes back to the argument of having someone overseeing this program but also having it

coordinated so that it's functional and we're seeing results.

I'd just like to again ask in regard to the base-plus funding.... I believe that in order for any program to function, you do have to realize that there are costs that you will incur that may not be part of your budgetary process, such as your rental costs, your utility costs, your overhead costs. We have to realize that you can't have group funding based on per capita. Someone who manages a program in Tsiigehtchic is an individual who has costs that they have to bear too, in regard to their cost of living and whatnot. They've used per capita; it doesn't really.... You're not able to track a lot of these people, and that's probably why you're not able to find coordinators in a lot of these communities.

Again, it comes back to my argument on base-plus. I mean, if you're going to pay coordinators, you should have a universal scale right across the board. You can't have one group in one community paying more for a coordinator versus a community that's paying less. Again, are those salaries for those individuals universal, right across the board, or does it fluctuate?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mr. Chair, we do make contributions to the community. It's at the discretion of the community to employ a coordinator out of their funding that they receive from the GNWT. In one community a coordinator may be making more than the other one. We give the money to the community, and it's at their discretion to decide where the money should be going within the criteria of the proposal. Mahsi.

Mr. Krutko: Quick question, Mr. Chair. Again, can we get the information on the total amount of the \$2.061 million for Community Justice, Corrections, and break it down so we can see what all these activities are for?

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: The first distribution of \$700,000 — we're making copies available. Certainly we'll provide that information once we have that package available. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): If there are no further questions on 7-37, we'll return to 7-39, information item, Community Justice and Corrections, Active Positions. Agreed?

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Community Justice and Corrections, Active Positions, information item, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Page 7-41, Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Services to the Public, Operations Expenditure Summary: \$3,920,000. Agreed?

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Services to the Public, Operations Expenditure Summary: \$3.920 million, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Page 7-43, Activity Summary, Services to the Public, Grants and Contributions. Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I thought we were going to 7-42. I have a question relative to numbers on page 7-42.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): All right, page 7-42. Department of Justice, Service to the Public. Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: On page 7-42, the Protection Against Family Violence program figures: the '08–09 estimates are some \$30,000 less than the '07–08 Revised Estimates and the Main Estimates. I'm just wondering if I could get an explanation as to why that particular activity or program has been reduced by \$30,000. It's a major focus of this government. It was a focus of our priorities when we set them in October. I'd appreciate some rationale for this reduction.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Ms. Schofield.

Ms. Schofield: The \$30,000 was transferred from Protection Against Family Violence to the Justice of the Peace Program. It's still going toward the Protection Against Family Violence program; it just puts the funding in the area for the Justice of the Peace, which provides the service under that Protection Against Family Violence. So the work they do in the communities, when they're taking orders.... It's operating costs associated with carrying out that act.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Page 7-42, Justice, information item.

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Services to the Public, Program Delivery Details, information item, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Page 7-43, Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Services to the Public, Grants and Contributions. Agreed?

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Services to the Public, Grants and Contributions: \$105,000, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 7-44, Department of Justice, information item, Services to the Public, Active Positions.

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Services to the Public, Active Positions, information item, (page 7-44) approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): 7-45, Department of Justice, information item, Services to the Public, Active Positions.

Department of Justice, Activity Summary, Services to the Public, Active Positions, information item, (page 7-45) approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Page 7-46, Department of Justice, information item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others.

Department of Justice, Information item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others, (page 7-46) approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): 7-47, Department of Justice, information item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others — Continued.

Department of Justice, Information item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others — Continued, (page 7-47) approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): 7-48, Department of Justice, information item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others — Continued.

Department of Justice, Information Item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others — Continued, (page 7-48) approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Department of Justice, page 7-49, information item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others — Continued. Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: The last item on this particular page talks about funds we expend on behalf of Nunavut. In the Revenue Summary there's an item, Exchange of Services, for \$2.686 million. This particular item in terms of expenses is \$3.210 million. I wonder if I could get an explanation as to whether or not we are not receiving as much revenue as we spend, and if not, why not?

Ms. Schofield: This revenue item is our exchange of services agreement with the Nunavut government to house their offenders. In the Revenue Summary, that's the revenue we receive from the federal government for housing federal offenders. So there's different utilization numbers that are used in those, as well as different rates.

Ms. Bisaro: Thanks for the explanation, but I think I'm even more confused now. These dollars in Work Performed on Behalf of Others — are they an expense or a revenue?

Ms. Schofield: The Work Performed on Behalf of Others has two sides to it: it has an expenditures side and a revenue side. We call it a Vote 4/5. What you'll see here is that the revenue has to match the expenditures. Ultimately, we received this amount from the Nunavut government to house their

offenders. We put expenditures in there to offset that revenue item.

Ms. Bisaro: Understood. Can you tell me where the revenue is shown, please?

Ms. Schofield: This is the revenue amount we receive. It's treated as a Vote 4/5. It's a different accounting treatment that the government has, where we're expending dollars on behalf of another organization or another government. This, essentially, is an information item that shows the revenue. There's an offsetting expenditure, which is one component.

Ms. Bisaro: Just a short follow-up. All of these figures, then, on pages 46 through to 49 are all revenue dollars, if I understand Ms. Schofield correctly. That wasn't clear to me. If I could just get that clarified, I would then understand this is the revenue. The expenses, I presume, are sprinkled throughout the rest of this department's document.

Ms. Schofield: The expenditures for these items do not show in the appropriation that's budgeted. It is a confusing exercise, and you're not alone. I have, on many occasions, had to explain to senior management how it works. What we're showing here is.... If you would look at it, the net effect would be zero. So there would be expenditures that would happen, and then there would be a revenue, and that effect would be zero in any event. There really is no expenditure component. They're not seen in the Vote 1 appropriation.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you. I give up. Thank you very much.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We're on page 7-49, Department of Justice, information item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others — continued.

Department of Justice, Information Item, Work Performed on Behalf of Others — Continued, (page 7-49) approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We'll be moving back to page 7-7 to Operations Expenditure Summary. Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 21-16(2)
TO DEFER CONSIDERATION
OF THE DEPARTMENT SUMMARY
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Bromley: Mr. Chair, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the Department Summary for the Department of Justice, Operations Expenditure Summary at this time.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is being distributed. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We'll be moving along to Infrastructure, Infrastructure Acquisition, page 6-5 in Volume 2 of the Main Estimates.

We're on page 6-5, Department of Justice, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, Services to Government, Tangible Capital Assets, Total Tangible Capital Assets: \$60,000; Total Activity: \$60,000. Agreed?

Department of Justice, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, Services to Government, Tangible Capital Assets, Total Tangible Capital Assets: \$60,000; Total Activity: \$60,000, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Next page, 6-9, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, Department of Justice, Community Justice and Corrections, Tangible Capital Assets, Total Tangible Capital Assets: \$1.46 million; Total Activity: \$1.46 million. Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to make a motion.

COMMITTEE MOTION 22-16(2)
TO DELETE \$320,000 FROM COMMUNITY
JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS CAPITAL
INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES TERRITORIAL
WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTRE —
REPLACEMENT
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Ms. Bisaro: I move that the 2008–2009 Main Estimates be amended by deleting \$320,000 from the activity Community Justice and Corrections, under the Department of Justice, Capital Investment Expenditures, on page 6-9 of the Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, for the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre replacement.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The motion is being distributed. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to speak to the rationale for the deletion of this particular activity. The Social Programs Committee discussed Community Justice and Corrections and facilities at great length during the department presentation, and afterwards when we discussed how we had viewed that presentation. At this point the program committee feels very strongly that this is not the correct time to begin planning a new facility. We don't know yet whether or not the Arctic Tern facility in Inuvik is suitable for a secure facility for corrections. It's undergoing a review — an engineering review and an analysis, apparently — at this time. That review will be available to us sometime this summer or this fall, from what we're given to understand.

The Social Programs Committee feels quite strongly that there needs to be an analysis of all the corrections facilities within the NWT; that there should be consideration for changing any or all facilities and how they're used, how inmates are housed, which inmates are housed where; that all of those things need to be considered.

We feel that it's quite possible that... I should back up a bit and say that the committee certainly does agree that the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre in Fort Smith definitely needs to be refurbished. It's an old building, it's not a secure facility, and it definitely needs to be revamped. However, that said, we don't feel that closing Arctic Tern, if it's suitable as a secure facility, is a good solution. That facility can be used in conjunction with all the other facilities in the NWT to house all of our inmates. Just because a facility currently has, for instance, young male offenders doesn't mean that it necessarily has to stay that way. Our belief is that we need to do an analysis of all the facilities once we know the status of Arctic Tern, and consider with an open mind what can and cannot be done.

It's entirely possible that we could house senior female offenders in Inuvik and, if there's not enough space for them there, that we could build a much smaller facility in Fort Smith to house the overrun of senior female offenders in Fort Smith. This is not the time for us to be doing planning to spend some \$20 million on a facility in Fort Smith. We need to wait. This planning money could come forward once we know the results of the analysis that's going on for Arctic Tern. So this is why I'm making this motion; I don't feel that this is the time to start this planning, and I think we can delete this item and continue to do the planning at a later date.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion, Mr. Hawkins. No? Mr. McLeod.

Mr. McLeod: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to be voting in favour of this motion. Ms. Bisaro touched on a lot of the discussion that went on within Social Programs. We just feel that, at this point, when we're talking reductions... I have to justify to 18-plus people at the Arctic Tern facility in Inuvik that they're losing their positions while we've got \$320,000 on the books to start planning another facility. So it's hard for me to justify that argument to them: they're being affected by the budget reductions, and on the other hand we're planning on spending \$320,000 on planning for another facility. It makes it very difficult to go back home and try and justify some of the rationale that we're given.

There is an engineer's report being worked on. There may be a need for this facility in the future. I understand it's been on the books for quite a few

years, and I don't disagree with that. I don't necessarily disagree with the fact that this may not be a facility that's needed, but when we're talking reductions, we can't be telling people, "We're reducing your positions" on one hand and on the other hand we're saying, "Oh, by the way, we're planning a new facility. Chances are, it may go ahead, and then you'll have no opportunity to continue to work in a facility."

Social Programs felt quite strongly about this and, being the Member for Inuvik, I appreciate the support of Social Programs on this particular issue. I will be voting in favour of this motion. I would also request a recorded vote.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion, Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes has indicated, and also other Members, this has been in the books for a number of years. It's a 1950s building, and it's due for replacement.

We talk about Arctic Tern facility as well. There have been all kinds of numbers thrown around during our legislation debates. Just for the record, \$14 million has been thrown around for Arctic Tern. To set the record straight, it was \$6 million when it was built. And also a correction: the closing-down of the programming there is due to the fact that it's severely underutilized. Last week we had no inmates in the facility; today we have two inmates. So based on that, Mr. Chair, we're talking about a facility in Fort Smith that we propose to start planning for replacement.

Also, Mr. Chair, I'd just like to highlight that we've been going through a lot of motions put forward, and some motions did cost our departments, let's say — whether it be the Justice Department or other departments that have gone through the committee before — the ten positions that we highlighted earlier. The motion came forward and cut those ten positions. Those ten positions, and there's one in Inuvik, three in Yellowknife, and one proposed. There are three currently occupied positions affected by the committee-made motion, so really, we just laid off three people from the motion that came forward.

Mr. Chair, I think it's important to highlight that with this particular motion before us we are in the planning stages. We are looking at options, whether it be at Inuvik or Fort Smith. At Inuvik there are three or four different options we're working with. We're not really completely closing down the facility, but it's based on the actual underutilization. So I just want to make the record straight.

I want to put the options of Arctic Tern on the record. The RCMP detachment is very interested in the area. The municipality of the community of

Inuvik is also interested. The Learning Centre is also interested. So that building will certainly be utilized.

So just to continue to be the effective and efficient government that we stated, we cannot continue operating as it is with Arctic Tern. So we can't say, "Well, we can't build in Fort Smith" and have Arctic Tern utilized. The capacity is not really there.

The TWCC, the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre, has a capacity of 18, and Arctic Tern has 14. So really, when we talk about numbers, there are also inmates down south — female inmates. We want to bring them back to the North. That's always been our goal. We will continue to do so, Mr. Chair.

So I just want to set the record straight that there's been a lot of information flowing — inaccurate information and whatnot. We're just setting the record straight, as indicated earlier, that we are moving forward on planning for the replacement of the correction centre in Fort Smith. And we are dealing with Arctic Tern, as has brought up by Members as part of this motion. So I thought this would be the ideal time to address that as part of the motion as well.

So at this time, Mr. Chair, thanks for the opportunity to speak on this matter. Mahsi.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. To the motion, Mr. Miltenberger.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make an observation. It's interesting that a Yellowknife MLA — where the community's getting a bypass road, dementia centre, École St. Joseph, a new clinic, Stanton upgrades, to a total of many tens of millions of dollars — is making a motion that in effect pits two small communities against each other and stands back to see what happens. Which is fine; we'll of course live with the will of this Legislature. It's just an interesting dynamic when all of us who live outside of the big centre will be turning on each other, while the territorial capital, which gets by far the lion's share of the capital budget, makes the motions to set that process in place.

As we keep open minds to look at all the options, one of the options that hasn't been considered is we're talking about repatriating a bunch of adults into a supportive living structure that has yet to be built. Has that been considered as a possibility for Arctic Tern? I don't know. But clearly it's a circumstance that strikes me as interesting and somewhat ironic. Of course, we will live with the vote of this Legislature. We'll all move on past this, but as the Member for Thebacha, it struck me right off the bat that it's an interesting dynamic as we all talk about the small communities and things in Yellowknife.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion, Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe the motion that's in front of us is clearly there for a reason. We have a lot of facilities that we've built in the Northwest Territories — young offenders' facilities — regardless if it's in Inuvik or Yellowknife or another place in the Northwest Territories.

We have to, at some point, assess what the use of those facilities are, what alternative uses we can get from these facilities, instead of building facilities for the sake of building facilities and then we find out later, "Well, sorry, you don't have the numbers we want. We're going to clean house, get rid of the whole staff, and then we're basically re-profile it for something after the fact."

I think as a government we have to determine usage of public facilities. We're spending millions of dollars on public facilities, and we're finding out after the fact that we can't use them. Somba K'e Lodge is a good example. The Arctic Tern facility in Inuvik is one.

There's no reason that this government should have the ability to re-profile facilities when we realize that we either are forced to by federal legislation or by way of changes, by needs.

I think it's great to see fewer people in our facilities. This shows that fewer people are in our Justice correctional systems, and if anything, it's good to see numbers go down.

But again, Mr. Chairman, I think it's crucial that we as government stop spending money to the tune of, you know, \$70 million for a brand-new jail to \$12 million for young offenders' facilities. Yet we have empty facilities that this government has spent tens of millions of dollars on sitting empty, and we're not using them to the best use of the public funds. That's the point that we're talking about under this motion.

So with that, Mr. Chair, I will be supporting the motion.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: I'm going to be supporting the motion. And as usual, I'll be very brief here.

I'm going to be checking the unedited Hansard for Mr. Miltenberger's comments. He brought up a capital project in my community, referred to as the supported assisted living facility — as yet to be built — wondering if it should be profiled. Mr. Chairman, when I read the unedited Hansard, if I consider that a threat to a capital project from a Minister in my riding, I'll be raising a point of order.

I'll be supporting this motion. Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): To the motion, Ms. Bisaro.

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you. I'd like to close debate here. I need to respond to some of the comments that have been made by some of the other Members.

I think the Social Programs Committee agrees that the Arctic Tern facility cannot continue in its current state, with the number of inmates compared to the number of staff members. It's totally inefficient.

However, the Minister, to me, seems to continue to see only one option for that facility, and that's to close it. As was mentioned by my colleague Mr. Krutko, there's a definite opportunity to re-profile that facility. I want to emphasize that I don't believe that people are keeping an open mind in regard to this particular issue.

Secondly, the time is not right to plan at this point. We don't know the status of the Arctic Tern facility from an engineering perspective. I don't believe we should be planning for a new facility until we know whether or not that one is usable.

I believe there's an opportunity to use both facilities in Inuvik and Fort Smith; we can probably end up with two facilities. But we don't know yet what's required in Fort Smith because we haven't done an analysis of all our corrections facilities. That needs to be done.

It's interesting that the statement was made that we should consider the supported living facility possibly. So on the one hand, we have somebody who seems to not have an open mind and somebody else who does have a more open mind. I guess that's a good thing.

I have to take some exception to the remarks by Mr. Miltenberger, presuming that I'm pitting two smaller communities against each other. That certainly is not the intent. The motion is put forward not only by myself but with support from Members on this side of the House.

I do believe that I am looking at the large picture for the NWT. I recognize that Yellowknife is a large community and that I live here. But Yellowknife also has 50 per cent of the population of this territory. I have yet to study the numbers, but I would presume that the capital infrastructure that's been designated for Yellowknife in this budget is probably in and around, or less than, 50 per cent.

I have to take some exception to the fact that it's being suggested that I personally am trying to start fights between communities. Absolutely not. That's not the way I work; that's not the way I want this government to work; that's not the way I want this House to work. I'm here for the betterment of the whole territory.

That said, to the motion, Mr. Chair. I believe firmly that now is not the time to spend this money. I believe we should pass this motion.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The question is being called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

Principal Clerk of Committees (Ms. Russell): Mr. Krutko, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Robert McLeod, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): All those opposed, please stand.

Principal Clerk of Committees (Ms. Russell): Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Michael McLeod, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): All those abstaining, please stand.

Members, the results of the recorded vote are in. We have ten in favour, six opposed and zero abstaining. The motion is carried.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): We're on page 6-9, Department of Justice, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, Community Justice and Corrections, Tangible Capital Assets. Total Tangible Capital Assets are now \$1.140 million; Total Activity: \$1.140 million. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to seek clarification. Under Inuvik Young Offenders Foundation Issues we have \$191,000. I was just trying to get clarification. If the government is proposing to shut that down, I'm curious why they're spending money on it.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lafferty.

Hon. Jackson Lafferty: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, part of the funding that's been allocated is remediation work — the soil and the groundwork the facility sits on

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 23-16(2)
TO UNDERTAKE A FACILITY REVIEW OF
EXISTING FACILITIES AND SPACE
REQUIREMENTS
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to now move a committee motion. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Justice immediately undertake a facility review that will outline the present condition of the existing correctional facilities and future space requirements for the correctional system.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The motion is being distributed. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Still on page 6-9, Department of Justice, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, Community Justice and Corrections, Tangible Capital Assets, Total Tangible Capital Assets of \$1.140 million, Total Activity: \$1.140 million. Page 6-9. Agreed?

Department of Justice, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, Community Justice and Corrections, Tangible Capital Assets, Total Tangible Capital Assets: \$1.140 million; Total Activity: \$1.140 million, approved.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Moving along to page 6-11, Department of Justice, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, Services to the Public, Tangible Capital Assets, Total Tangible Capital Assets: \$170,000; Total Activity: \$170,000; Total Department.... Okay. Now that I've got the totals, I'll do that again. Page 6-11, Department of Justice. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move a motion that we report progress, please.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): A motion is on the floor. The motion is not debatable.

Motion defeated.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): So we're back on page 6-11, Department of Justice, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, Services to the Public, Tangible Capital Assets, Total Tangible Capital Assets: \$170,000; Total Activity: \$170,000; Total Department: \$1.37 million. Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 24-16(2)
TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT
SUMMARY FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
INFRASTRUCTURE ACQUISITION PLAN
(COMMITTEE MOTION CARRIED)

Ms. Bisaro: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a motion. I move that this committee defer further consideration of the Department Summary for the Department of Justice, Infrastructure Acquisition Plan, at this time.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The motion is being distributed. The motion is in order.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): The question has been called.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): That item will be deferred. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Krutko: I move that we report progress.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): I will now rise to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you to your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them out.

Report of Committee of the Whole

The House resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please? Mr. Abernethy.

Mr. Abernethy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 37-16(2), Main Estimates 2008–2009, Volumes I and II, and Committee Report 6-16(2), and would like to report progress with nine motions being adopted. And Mr. Spooker....

Laughter.

Mr. Abernethy: Some of us are tired today. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker: Item 23, 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 Monday, June 2, 2008, 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) Replies to Budget Address (Day 7 of 7)
- 12) Petitions
- 13) Reports of Standing and Special Committees
- 14) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
- 15) Tabling of Documents
- 16) Notices of Motion
- 17) Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
- 18) Motions
 - Motion 10-16(2): Setting of Sitting Hours by Speaker (Bisaro)
 - Motion 11-16(2): National Housing Strategy (Miltenberger)
- 19) First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2007–2008
 - Bill 10: An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act
- 20) Second Reading of Bills
- 21) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8: Appropriation Act, 2008–2009
 - CR 2-16(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Public Housing and Homeownership Programs

CR 3-16(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2006–2007 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner

CR 4-16(2): Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on the Review of the 2008–2009 Draft Main Estimates

CR 5-16(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2008–2009 Draft Main Estimates

CR 6-16(2): Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the 2008–2009 Draft Main Estimates

CR 7-16(2): Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure Report on the Review of the 2008–2009 Draft Main Estimates

TD 37-16(2): Main Estimates 2008–2009, Volumes 1 and 2

22) Report of Committee of the Whole

23) Third Reading of Bills

24) Orders of the Day

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, June 2, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

The House adjourned at 2:02 p.m.