



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

5th Session

Day 38

16th Assembly

HANSARD

Monday, February 14, 2011

Pages 5763 - 5814

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**Monday, February 14, 2011****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reflection of my statement and line of questioning last week in the House, the Stanton deficit is certainly a concern and great passion of mine which I fear may have gotten the best of me on that particular issue. If I offended anyone, I certainly want to make amends to the House by withdrawing any tone or individual comment that may have caused any offence. I, of course, as always, am prepared to work in the most collegial way in the House as possible and always do with that intent.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 102-16(5):
FILM INDUSTRY REVIEW

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes that Northwest Territories filmmakers make positive economic and cultural impacts on our Territory. Today I would like to talk to you about the important work that we are doing with the Northwest Territories film industry to help grow this vital sector.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is working with Education, Culture and Employment to undertake a review assessing the economic prospects of the film industry, investigating establishment of an independent film commission and possible programs that would support the film industry.

The review process is part of a two-step plan. The aim of the review is to explore the costs and benefits of programs to support the Northwest Territories film industry in our current fiscal environment and research options for support

programs for the Northwest Territories film industry and a delivery model for those programs.

The second part of this project will involve consultation with the players in the Northwest Territories film industry to explore those options and develop recommendations for support to the industry. It is anticipated this workshop will take place within the next month and will provide the Government of the Northwest Territories with an opportunity to present findings from the review and discuss and explore options together with those people involved in the Northwest Territories film industry.

Industry, Tourism and Investment currently provides support to Northwest Territories businesses, including those involved in film production through its Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy. Education, Culture and Employment provides support to the film industry through the Northwest Territories Arts Council and northern film and media arts contributions programs.

This project will allow us to explore other possible options that support the Northwest Territories film industry. We already know that brilliant filmmakers are at work throughout the Northwest Territories creating memorable films that use our rugged landscape and vibrant cultural essence of the Northwest Territories as a backdrop. Yellowknife-based production company Black Swan Films recently screened "A Song for the Dead," which was filmed at Prosperous Lake. I am pleased to say Industry, Tourism and Investment helped to fund this film through its Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Policy.

The 4th Annual Yellowknife Film Festival that just concluded this past weekend is also a great example of success in northern film and video.

We know that people are interested in filming in the North and watching film and television shows filmed and produced in the North. Just look at the popularity of Northwest Territories Ice Pilots, which has now moved into its second season of production. We also had crews in the North to film a Tropicana orange juice commercial under Inuvik's arctic sun. This commercial won multiple awards, including the prestigious Gold Lion in the film category at the Cannes Lions International

Advertising Festival, which is widely regarded as the most prestigious awards festival in the world.

Also, with the interest generated in the Northwest Territories through our Northern House at the Vancouver Olympics, we can only expect that interest in the Northwest Territories film industry will grow even more.

Mr. Speaker, we all want an economy that is diversified and one that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices. Supporting programming for the Northwest Territories film industry is one way to maximize opportunities and support economic diversification of the Northwest Territories, which is a key goal of this Assembly.

I look forward to the results of the review and I am confident that by working with those closely involved with the Northwest Territories film industry we will find the best ways to show our support for this important industry. We will be tabling a final report on the review of the Northwest Territories film industry during the May session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STATUS OF STERILIZATION EQUIPMENT AT STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak today about the status of the sterilization equipment located at Stanton Territorial Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to get an understanding from the Minister today as to what is happening with surgeries at Stanton Hospital. I've heard that over the past three weeks, with the exception of emergency surgeries, all surgeries have been cancelled. Mr. Speaker, there is also the issue of infection rates in post-operative patients at Stanton. Has there been an increase in infection rates at that hospital? Why have surgeries been cancelled the last three weeks?

The equipment used to sterilize surgical instruments is located in the CSR, or reprocessing unit at that hospital. I understand that currently there are technicians working on the equipment. I'd like to know when the hospital became aware of the problems with the equipment and why have they shut them down. Is it a coincidence that post-operative infections are increasing just when it seems the equipment requires servicing? Has public health been put at risk, Mr. Speaker?

It would appear that patients who get a post-operative infection are being told it's their fault,

when just down the hall the same surgery, the same day, has the same infection. Again, is this all one big coincidence or do we have some serious issues with our sterilization equipment at that hospital?

If our operating rooms have been cancelling surgeries over the past three weeks, is it not going to have a negative impact on patients awaiting necessary surgery? What about the staff and the operational costs, all of which will increase due to the cancellations? Mr. Speaker, these have got to be piling up. I'd like to ask the Minister a number of questions today during question period regarding this issue. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Draft amendments to the Wildlife Act are not there yet. It has been a long road, and a pressing need to update the act into the legal reality of today is clear. The draft bill does go some distance towards recognizing Aboriginal and treaty rights but fails on our additional responsibility for bringing those without these rights into a cooperative management future.

As I have said repeatedly, whole management is the only approach that will work, but workable whole management requires that this bill also provides for wildlife users without Aboriginal and treaty rights to be directly engaged in the process. While the legal makeup of advisory and management boards may omit wildlife users without Aboriginal and treaty rights, that does not preclude a direct and funded role for them and advising government representatives who are at the table. The difficulty lies in the fact that government representatives must represent all people, including those with Aboriginal rights. And thus they have an inherent conflict of interest. Unless those without treaty rights have a clear mechanism for participation and debate, our solutions can only produce the failed management practices, discord and resistance that now prevail.

Another key issue is recognition of the legal fact that priority rights do not mean exclusive rights. Few, if any, would debate the recognition of priority access for those with Aboriginal and treaty rights over residents and then commercial interests. Case law indicates that while Aboriginal harvesters have pre-eminent rights of harvesting, that does not mean completely excluding allocation for users without Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard me speak out many times on behalf of Aboriginal and treaty rights holders. I am extremely pleased to see this draft

legislation making significant progress in recognizing those rights, but we have a responsibility for maximizing the use and enjoyment of our wildlife for all our people within the provisions for recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights. To achieve this, we need to conduct and fund consultation for all users and provide all users with a meaningful mechanism for direct participation in wildlife management. Conservation is most supported by those who use the resource. Working together requires providing a real opportunity to engage.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Working together requires providing a real opportunity to engage. Failure will lead to bad management decisions and embittered agendas for years to come. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION WORKER IN FORT GOOD HOPE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak in support of a request from the community of Fort Good Hope that the government reinstates the position for prevention and health promotion worker in the community.

Chief Arthur Tobac, the chief of K'ahsho Got'ine Band, believes that the lack of programs and services to support parents and young people in Fort Good Hope is holding the students back. He was very appreciative of the leadership taken by the Culture and Education department Minister at the Minister's forum on Aboriginal achievement and education and at the Department of Health and Social Services community meetings. The community was encouraged by the consultation. Representing his community, Chief Tobac recommended the reinstatement of a prevention and health promotion worker who would be hired specifically to focus on helping the youth deal with alcohol and drug dependencies.

The prevention and health promotion worker could help youth keep on track and help them find alternatives to alcohol and drug use. Discovering healthy alternatives is the means to personal healing that gives the youth confidence and the energy for these youth to have more self-worth or are more likely to fit in at school and get involved in their studies. These students learn more, increase their skills and knowledge, feel better about themselves and are more likely to complete high school and further their education.

I think Fort Good Hope is on the right track, Mr. Speaker, in their request to hire their own prevention and community health promotion worker who can focus on creating a healthier environment for the student population. We want to help the youth actively engage in learning at school and at home, and they need help, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the chief says our youth are our future. Let's start investing in our youth and in their future by helping them put together a community solution that they're proposing to this government. Will this government stand up and listen and support the Fort Good Hope initiative to hire a prevention and health promotion worker? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 2nd I made a Member's statement outlining concerns I received about the most recent public consultation process that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been conducting on the proposed Wildlife Act.

There is concern that these consultations are not really being conducted to get input on the proposed changes but rather to inform the people on what the department is planning to put before this Legislature. Many participants have the feeling that their concerns about the content is being ignored and that only token or administrative changes are being considered by ENR, so no real or substantive changes will result from these current public consultation sessions, which started in November, then over Christmas and ended in mid-January.

Mr. Speaker, on February 2nd I asked the Minister some clear questions. I was trying to get the Minister to provide constituents across the Northwest Territories with some confidence that their voices and input have been seriously considered during this most recent round of consultation; specifically, the voices of the non-Aboriginal hunters, the Akaitcho and the Dehcho, whose only input into the proposed and final act come as a result of the really important public consultations.

Mr. Speaker, I was very frustrated by the Minister's response to my questions. Rather than answer my questions, the Minister, in my opinion, danced a dance of deflection. Rather than answer these important questions he challenged the credibility of the NWT Wildlife Federation, accused me of egregious behaviour, made continual reference to 54 drafts, but wouldn't confirm how many of these drafts have been done after the current

consultations. And when pressed for examples of how ENR would be incorporating input heard from the residents during these most recent rounds of consultations, the Minister provided examples of clauses that were already included in the proposed act, items that have not been changed since the current round of public consultations.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, consultations have been going on for over 10 years. Unfortunately none of these consultations included the distribution of the current departmental draft and only this last round of consultation included the plain language summary. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the drafting of this proposed legislation recognized treaty and Aboriginal rights. Some Aboriginal governments participated in the drafting. This is a unique and respectful practice which needs to be applauded. However, we are still a public government and the voices of all our residents must be heard and acknowledged.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, a lot of good work has been done. However, one would think that the Minister would want an act of this importance to be as near perfect as possible before putting it in front of this House.

If the Minister can't demonstrate that this most recent and final round of public consultation has had meaningful impact...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Abernethy, your time for your Member's statement has expired.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister can't demonstrate this most recent and final round of public consultations had meaningful impact on the final draft and that no substantive changes are being considered as a result, I suggest that this act is not ready to be put before this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DARNLEY BAY
DIAMOND EXPLORATION PROJECT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Darnley Bay project in Paulatuk, Mr. Speaker, is approaching another drilling season. All across the Northwest Territories, communities such as Paulatuk are one step closer to seeing a fully operating diamond mine near the community in similar projects. This project has experienced some slowdown due to the global economy.

Fortunately this project has once again built some momentum and financing and is moving this forward. Recently the Canadian Northern Economic

Development Agency invested \$485,000 to help the Paulatuk Development Corporation in purchasing moveable exploration camps, which could be used at the mine site with the exploration companies.

Darnley Bay Resources Limited and Diadem and the contractor or geoscientists are currently active in searching for diamonds and base metals near the community of Paulatuk. This camp will consist of a 20-person moveable camp, complete with a camp manager, cook, First Aid attendant and camp staff who look forward to all the operations and logistics.

Darnley Bay Resources Limited is publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange and is preparing for the 2011 exploration drilling season for the diamonds and base metals, with two drilling campaigns planned. According to their spokesperson we've been speaking to, they're hiring many local people from the community. The result of their recent finding is another indicator of a promising future for this project.

As the project moves forward, many organizations and groups want to see people from Paulatuk get meaningful employment and to participate and benefit economically, not just with low-wage jobs but with positions such as drillers and geologists, managers and environmental monitors. Construction companies could be used to build the site and camp catering companies could be used to provide a wide range of services.

This project is an excellent opportunity for a small, remote community such as Paulatuk to create and build real capacity in all areas of the local economy. I will have questions for the Minister of ITI at the appropriate time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
BOMPAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Last October at a public meeting in Fort Simpson with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in attendance, parents raised concerns about Bompas Elementary School playground. The old playground was pressure-treated wood and had to be removed for safety reasons. The play area designated for kindergarten and grade 1 children is equipped, but the area designated for grade 2 and 3 is empty. The area designated for grade 4, 5 and 6 has only a few structures that are in rough shape. This is a bad situation.

As we all know, the importance of physical activity for children's health, having safe environment for kids in the fresh air goes a long ways towards

keeping them happy. The Fort Simpson's group Parents for Playgrounds, which also includes teachers, has estimated that the total cost of a new playground is about \$60,000 and they have been fundraising and making requests for corporate donations. Their goal is to raise \$30,000.

I'm really impressed with the parents' and teachers' dedication to make sure that children in Fort Simpson have play equipment that will be used for years to come.

Recently Fort Liard raised funds to replace playground equipment that was falling to pieces and ECE matched the funds raised, providing the assistance through the district education authority. This is encouraging to the parents group and they're working hard towards their goal of replacing the playground equipment.

The group Parents for Playgrounds is asking the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for the same assistance. I wholeheartedly support this request. They are working closely with the district education authority and the Dehcho Divisional Council. They do need more support. I look forward to the Minister confirming he will provide funding for the playground equipment at the Bompas Elementary School.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past December and January I attended public meetings for consultations on the Wildlife Act. The presentations were excellent and thorough but I came away with concerns for the act; concerns that were strengthened by submissions by a number of NWT organizations.

I want to start by saying that I appreciate the efforts of the Minister and the staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for their work in the development of the act over these 10 many years and for the presentations and consultations that are recently concluded.

I will not comment on the consultation process. The Minister has heard people's concerns about that already. I do have to comment on the act, in light of what I'm hearing from constituents.

The new Wildlife Act is long overdue but the draft act, as presented during the recent consultation process, is not ready for first reading without some amendments. Firstly, there are a couple of requirements in the act which will force airlines to contravene Transport Canada regulations, and that they cannot do.

Secondly, I have major concerns with the proposed membership of the Conference of Management

Authorities. We're told that any interested non-Aboriginal residents are represented by the GNWT, but in reality that's not adequate. We're told that the conference membership must be limited to agencies who have a legal responsibility for wildlife management, but if that must be, then identify several ex-officio, non-voting members from interested organizations: the Chamber of Mines, or Chamber of Commerce, or the NWT Wildlife Federation, for instance. We must be inclusive as a government and we must be seen to be inclusive.

Thirdly, NWT businesses are concerned about the powers identified in the act to establish conservation areas, particularly the mining companies. There is little in the act that speaks to an NWT that protects and manages wildlife and also allows and encourages economic development. There must be language added to the act which expresses the philosophy of sustainable development.

Lastly, many, many people have indicated their concern with the unidentified content of some 250 or more regulations that will govern the new act. The department must be more forthcoming about the content of these numerous regulations.

I'm heartened by the assurances given to Members at a recent briefing on the act. What I heard is that a number of changes will be made to the draft act prior to its presentation to the House and I commend the Minister and his staff for recognizing that change was needed. It is imperative that the department's response to the consultation be shared with everyone who submitted comments, with the general public, prior to the first reading of the act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FORT RESOLUTION DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAM BUILDING

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

In Fort Resolution there is a daycare and a preschool program. These programs are much needed and appreciated. The main problem is the building that houses the daycare and preschool is an old 1960s trailer that was moved to Fort Resolution from Little Buffalo Junction. At this time the building needs a new roof, a new furnace and many other minor repairs, and about 300 to 400 square feet because it's too small to accommodate the community's preschool needs.

I believe this building is beyond economical repair, once the expansion is added to the cost of renovations. More space is needed to accommodate the kids who will be going into kindergarten next year. Right now the space will

only allow for five preschool students and the need right now is at least 12. The additional students cannot even be added if the space was found, because the preschool would need a half-day teacher to accommodate the students going into kindergarten in September.

The teachers tell me that students in kindergarten are far more ready for kindergarten if they were attending preschool. They are considerably ahead of the other students that are coming straight into kindergarten without any preschool experience.

Preschool and daycare appear to be the first pieces of the puzzle of education. It is very, very important and almost essential in small communities where the overall education levels are lower than average. We need to support daycare and preschool programs.

I'll be asking the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to look into providing new space for the daycare and a preschool teacher, at the appropriate time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend I had occasion to speak to a friend who is a long-time Northerner. She said to me, "Jane, what's devolution?" Simple question. I said, "Simply, it's the turning over of federal responsibility for the management of Crown lands and natural resources on and under those lands, and the transfer of decision-making from federal politicians, bureaucrats and federally appointed boards to Northerners. It's about transferring the jobs associated with those responsibilities to the North. It's also about sharing a portion of the royalties for the extraction of those resources to northern governments." Then she said, "So why are the chiefs not on board?"

Now, I would not stand here in this House today and purport to speak for the chiefs of the Northwest Territories, but I told her that I believed to some extent it has to do with what is considered to be a fair share of those royalties for Aboriginal governments.

In this dialogue about this devolution and resource revenue sharing I have heard it said by some leaders that this government is not our government. In a Territory of 42,000 people, where we as leaders are called upon to deliver programs and services to all of our people, I don't know how many governments we need to deliver health or education or social services.

May I suggest that no matter who you are in the Northwest Territories, when you pull up to the door

of the Stanton Territorial Hospital in the middle of the night with a sick child, this is your government. The government will come for you in so many ways as a Northerner. I don't know how many more governments at which levels we can afford to have.

We elect representatives from all over this Northwest Territories. I never understand how, when they cross the threshold of this door, there's a perception that now they're on an opposing team. We're all leaders. We're all here for the same reason. We're all here for the benefit of the people that we serve.

It's particularly, if I might say, interesting when people who have served in this House for many years say this is not their government, because it is their government on the day they pick up their pension cheques, I'm sure.

How long will we lose the struggle with Canada for northern control and benefit of northern resources by default? What is it going to take to bring unity of northern leadership for the benefit of northern people? If our government has created distrust of our government by failing to equally and fairly consider the needs of all Northerners outside of the capital, then it's high time that this culture of centralization does change.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Please, for the benefit of the economies and the common sense of working together for the benefit of Northerners, let's seriously listen to each other and let's see where a unified voice for the North can take us.

All the best to the Premier as he goes out to the regions in the next weeks and months to have that dialogue with Northerners.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT RED TAPE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to return to a topic I have raised in this House before which continues to be of great concern to me. It's a matter of government red tape and how frustrating and problematic it is for small business. It's nothing but a roadblock and a burden on our industry.

Red tape restricts small business activities, creates more paperwork and leads to frustration. Of course, we all recognize the need for regulatory regulations and reporting, but there must be clear and reasonable requirements. I also empathize with small business owners and employees who must

deal with the bureaucratic tangling of paper, which certainly is a tricky web that's been weaved.

In a recent report, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business found that 73 percent of its members reported that regulations cause significant stress, and 26 percent -- that's one in four business owners -- say they might not have gone into business had they known about all the paperwork and requirements in the regulations they are faced with. Last year CFIB identified the Northwest Territories was lagging behind every other jurisdiction in Canada. They often raise this as a particular issue that needs to be addressed by this government.

Consider some examples: business costs of negotiating the regulatory process and exploration of mining, the records that small airlines may be required to complete for non-scheduled flights for hunters and fishers, for the transportation of wildlife. Many businesses, such as liquor stores, must provide extensive documentation for their operations and many times they ask me: what's the point of this? Just to keep someone employed?

In 2010, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have been noted for their hard work leading the response by the call of business to address the burdensome paperwork. Last month at CFIB's Second Annual Red Tape Awareness Week the Prime Minister of Canada announced the creation of a Red Tap Reduction Commission. It's hard to believe, but even Ottawa gets it.

The reality here is the GNWT needs to follow the lead of other jurisdictions and reach out to our northern businesses, our true economy of our North, and ensure that we get their values on how to deal with the red tape burden that's being put on them. They want to be involved, they want to report, but a lot of times they find it a waste of time and pointless. Let's ensure our businesses are busy making money and not filling out useless government paperwork.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention in the gallery to some special visitors today. We have 10 young women and men who are visiting us for a few days from the Ontario Legislature Internship Program. They are here to observe consensus government in action. I may want to encourage Members to be on their best behaviour today.

I would like to recognize Byran Bossis, Melissa Cernigoy, Natalie Desimini, Thomas Maidwell, Katherine Preiss, Erica Rayment, Michael Smith,

Charles Thompson, Sasha Tregobov and Lisa Marie Williams. On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, may I extend a warm welcome to the Northwest Territories and to our Chamber.

Also, colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the visitor's gallery to our Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Gerry Gerrand, in the House today.

The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Aurora College students currently enrolled in the Introduction to Government class here in Yellowknife. The students are: Tuan Tran, Nichelle Hernblad, Delores Lacorne, Arisa Komi, Sean Erasmus, Warren Mpofo, Karen Horn, and also the instructor, Arthur Osborne. Welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to welcome and recognize a Grade 6 Intense French class from Range Lake North School, who are here to watch consensus government in action. I'd like to recognize, with the indulgence of the House, each one of them: Viktor Hugo Antolin Gutierrez, Julienne Apaga, Carson Asmundson, Taylor Beck, Erika Callahan, Emma Cameron, Advent Joshua Cruz, Brady Daniels, Sarah DuPlessis, Tori Forsbloom, Hannah Fowler, Hayley Gibson, Daniel Guardado, Michelle Lee -- who is also my niece, Jasmine Li, Tatianna Lim, Iain MacKay, Melissa MacLellan, Angus Martin, Taltson McQueen, Ashley Peddle, Kirsten Peterson, Dylan Roesch, Matthew Slade, Ashley Stride, Anika von Allmen, Sean Ward, Andrew Young, and the teacher, Ms. Jodie Lee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me today to welcome Ms. Christine Falardeau. Her husband, Martin Falardeau, is a ranger instructor with Joint Task Force North. I know she's a part of the teaching staff at Range Lake North School. Thank you for coming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I'd like to recognize a friend, Delores Lacorne.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber. We hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in here.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 436-16(5): STERILIZATION EQUIPMENT AT STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions today for the Minister of Health and Social Services, getting back to my Member's statement where I talked about the status of the sterilization equipment located at Stanton Hospital. This equipment is used to sterilize surgical instruments for performance in the operating room. I'd like to ask the Minister, if I can begin by asking her what the current status of the sterilization equipment is that's required to sterilize these instruments at that hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can advise you that Stanton has identified three definite and two possible post-surgical site infections. In June a quality audit of all processes from the CSR to patient care units was conducted to ensure that Stanton was following best practices. Dr. Kandola, chief public health officer, reviewed the audit and has endorsed the practices Stanton has followed. Surgical site infections are a risk for all surgeries.

I can also advise the House that Stanton's SSI rate has been within the national average of 3 percent over the last number of years. Mr. Speaker, the staff and the management of the authority are on top of this issue. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, June was eight months ago. I'm wondering, if I could, to the Minister: when did the hospital become aware of the deficiencies with that equipment and once the deficiencies were found, were operations still conducted, were surgeries still conducted at that hospital in light of the findings of that report in June? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Infection control and the review of incidents of infections is a part of the regular business in running a hospital. Our hospital keeps up with all of the national standards and they are engaged in constant review. Mr. Speaker, the management are in touch with what is happening at the hospital and they take action as it becomes necessary. I can also advise the Member, following on his Member's statement, there are restricted numbers of surgeries being conducted at the

hospital because they are waiting for parts for their surgical sterilization equipment. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, if they're waiting for parts, I'm just wondering how long has this been going on for. My understanding is it's been three weeks that surgeries have been cancelled at that hospital and only emergency surgeries are being performed. I'd like to ask the Minister how long has this been going on. I will wait and ask another question after that. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, we should be aware that surgeons and the staff can organize and cancel surgeries at any time if they have any concern with the scheduling or the equipment or any of the procedures. I think it's important for everybody to know that all the procedures followed are the ones that are accepted nationally. We don't have any more infection incidents than any other parts of the country. We are, in fact, below the national standard. All instruments used in the OR meet current Canadian Standards Association standards for sterilization.

Mr. Speaker, the decisions they make about reorganizing schedules and cancelling surgeries as required, the staff make those decisions all the time. I need to make sure that the people are aware that the authority is aware of this, the surgeons are aware of this, management is aware of this. They're taking all appropriate actions and while we are working to address this issue, we should not be causing undue alarm. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like surgeries are being cancelled because the hospital is waiting for parts. I'd like to think it has nothing to do with increased rates of post-operative infection, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister: have we seen an increase in post-operative infections at that hospital going back the last four months? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: As I stated earlier, we've had three definite infections and two possible other infections. Infection control in hospital settings is an increasing concern nationally. It is a discussion that all of the health care professionals are engaged in. This could break out at any time and the important thing is that we have the confidence in the staff that we have, that they are equipped and qualified and knowledgeable to address that. The public health officer has reviewed the process and we are meeting all national guidelines. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 437-16(5):
PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION
WORKER IN FORT GOOD HOPE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services a question on the proposal by Fort Good Hope in terms of the proposal that they put forward on a prevention and health promotion worker in Fort Good Hope. The Minister and I had a visit to Fort Good Hope. The proposal was drafted and given to her and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I want to ask the Minister what is the status in terms of that proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's question. As he stated, we did visit the community. We had a good discussion with the chief and we also met in my office as a follow-up visit.

Mr. Speaker, we have responded to Chief Arthur Tobac on his proposal. We are interested in discussing with the community his proposal. Our staff has been directed to engage in a dialogue. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister inform the House as to when the position will be recruited and hired for Fort Good Hope?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information right now, but the position is vacant, as the Member is aware. The community has different ideas on how to address community wellness issues. I am open to that proposal. We have written to the chief that we would like to take it to the next level and work with the local leadership along with Sahtu Health Authority. I am very interested in seeing this through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister inform the House, inform the people in Fort Good Hope -- we have about eight months left in this government -- what does she mean by seeing it through? When are we going to have an actual person hired in the community rather than having a discussion? I think the people clearly know what they want. When can the government come up and support the community?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows, the chief has given us a proposal. They have very different ideas, not different ideas but a new idea of making this position work for them. He has asked us to work together jointly in rewriting the job description and hiring. Those are the ideas that I am interested in working with the chief. We also met with a gentleman who is very interested in taking on this work for the community, who is from the community and who lives there.

Mr. Speaker, the timeline is the spring. I would like to, I don't know... What is spring in the Northwest Territories? March or April? I would like to work through this in March and in April. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister in terms of the timelines. It is usually about springtime, I guess, and hoping that by then can I get a commitment from this Minister that we would have a person in Fort Good Hope that is hired and working in the community to help with the youth on their issues and work with the families.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, we do have a set process on hiring and job description and such that is actually within the mandate of HR. For me, for now, what I want to indicate to the Member and the local leadership in Fort Good Hope is that I like the idea that they are proposing. I would like to see how we can work together to make that happen, because we need to agree on the proposal, agree on the sort of job description and what it is that we are expecting this new position to do. It is about doing things differently within the resources we have. But, so far, I am very interested in pursuing that proposal. I am afraid I can't give you an exact timeline, because that is a different process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

QUESTION 438-16(5):
FORT RESOLUTION DAYCARE AND
PRESCHOOL PROGRAM BUILDING

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the needs of daycare and preschool in Fort Resolution. I have questions for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, on an interim basis, can the Minister direct the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to provide some emergency funding for immediate repairs that are needed to the daycare and the preschool in Fort Resolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. There is funding allocated to the communities that have early childhood programs or daycares. There is funding such as funding for equipment and material purchases that the Member may have alluded to in that area, and also funding for other areas such as mortgage expense or rental expense on the premises that are not owned by the GNWT, but I need to work with the Member on the

specifics on that particular situation in his community. We also need to work with the local DEA, as well, as we move forward on this particular matter. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, if additional space in the current daycare preschool can't be obtained, whether it is an addition or some internal renovations, will the Minister work with the local district authority to find some temporary space for the community so that these kids can go to preschool prior to going to kindergarten in September? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, those are areas that we need to identify within a community. There are other reviews that have been undertaken as well. They could capture that. It may have captured it in the past or not, but child daycare standards regulations does come early this year or next year. Also, the Member is referring to a temporary placement. Those are the areas that my department, ECE, needs to work with the DEA and also the Member identifying those matters at hand. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister consider directing his department to try to provide some O and M funding to the community, whether it be through the DEA or through the band, to provide funding for the preschool to hire a half-time student to accommodate the additional that have to go through preschool prior to kindergarten? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I will commit to working with the Member and also the DEA. At the same time, there is the Early Childhood Program for start-up and also contribution funding that is available to those individual organizations. We need to deal with the matter, the detailed information that the Member is referring to. If I can get that information, I am willing to work with that and also with the DEA through my department. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if I said a half-time student but I think I meant a half-time teacher.

Mr. Speaker, earlier he talked about buildings that don't belong to the GNWT. Would the Minister look at Education, Culture and Employment's infrastructure plan to add funding to build a new building to house daycare and preschool in Fort Resolution? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, through this early childhood programming, we provide funding for programming. Not only that, but a portion of mortgage and also rental expenses for providers that operate on the premises and also Early Childhood Program that consists of start-up

and operation costs. Those are the funds that we provide currently through the ECE department. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 439-16(5):
PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I want to follow up on my Member's statement.

The good management of any issues requires the balanced input of all stakeholders. With wildlife, this is at least, if not more, critical than in most areas, because it is a very limited resource that is vulnerable, as we know, to overexploitation. Those with Aboriginal and treaty rights are squarely at the management table, with representatives comprising half of management board members while those without these rights have only representatives that represent both rights holders and non-rights holders. What can the Minister do to provide mechanisms to resolve this critical gap? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard the concern. There are some options that are out there in terms of ex-officio members, observers; as well, the GNWT will have two to three seats available, of which in any given time we can bring stakeholders to the table, depending on the issue being discussed. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I'm assuming that the Minister means by any of those issues and what's appropriate here that when we're talking about the use and enjoyment of wildlife, there would be everybody at the table. Their recent wildlife management controversies and failures demonstrate a lack of early and critical input to the process.

Debate, even when perhaps overly enthusiastic and a bit rancorous and extreme, provides an important role in society's ability to arrive at good decisions that recognize and respond to the rights of all. This is particularly true when the legislation is abundant and complex. How will the Minister ensure that mechanisms are both identified in the legislation and funded to ensure this key debate helps form the backbone of the management process?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. As Minister of Finance I caught the keyword of "funded." The issue is going to be to address, through the management, the conference process to see and make sure that everybody is represented. As a public government, the

Government of the Northwest Territories, we are charged with representing the interests of Northerners at that table as well. There are options to make sure we have representation from non-Aboriginal harvesters and, we believe, mechanisms to do that. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I appreciate the openness and commitments of the Minister here and I guess I would ask him that he commit to even further discussions on this outside the House. But what will the Minister do to ensure that the interpretation of the legislation goes the distance to consider and meet government responsibility to provide for all citizens the opportunity to use and enjoy wildlife? I'm thinking here of, for example, the interpretation of priority access to mean exclusive access. Case law clearly has indicated that's not the case and we're talking interpretation of the legislation. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. The bill, when it comes forward for first and second reading, will be as complete as possible. It will have been amended numerous times. We've fully briefed committee on this. We laid out all the very many changes that have been made based on a lot of the feedback that we have received from groups and individuals from across the North, outside of the North, from business, from industry, from the airlines. So we're going to bring forward a bill that will be there to be further viewed by committee through a consultation process. We'll look to advice that comes back from that process to see if there are any final amendments that need to be made before it comes into the House, hopefully by no later than August, for third reading.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for those remarks. Certainly the caribou population, and with what we've been through recently and are going through, are a big and tough challenge. Will the Minister be providing an analysis of how our systems broke down and led to such failure, including the failure to a reliable measure harvest, a basic management parameter for wildlife management, and how this will be addressed in the Wildlife Act? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. I don't know if I would agree with the assessment that there was a breakdown of our systems. We definitely know that there was a decline in the various caribou herds.

We will address some of that through the Wildlife Act. The vehicle that will probably provide a better form for that is going to be the Barren Ground Management Strategy that's coming forward and the need in this part of the country to look at a multiparty board or arrangement to look after the number of herds that are in this part of the country.

Go from east to west with the Beverly Qamanirjuaq, the Ahiak, the Bathurst and the Bluenose East, which as well extends north all the way up to Inuvialuit area. So it is a very complex undertaking, be it one of the big issues, of course, is to make sure we have sufficient funds to do the constant survey work that is required and that we can't afford to wait for decades to do this. We need to, as we have been doing for the last many years now, come up with a plan and funding to do all the herds so that we have a very good baseline information that will allow us to better track what's happening in terms of the health of the herds. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 440-16(5):
PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions as well today are addressed to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources and I want to follow up on my statement.

I mentioned a number of concerns that I've heard from constituents with regard to the draft Wildlife Act. I'd like to ask the Minister first off, he mentioned, I believe it was last week, that he was on draft number 54 of the act. I'd like to know what draft number we're on now, and as a result of that, what changes have been made to the draft act as a direct result of concerns expressed during the consultation process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we're about draft 56, and I have a list here, Mr. Speaker, it's a request for technical detail. The committee was fully briefed; the Member was fully briefed last week. We gave a good overview of the changes that have been made and there are numerous, and in an attempt to be as responsive as possible and still maintain the integrity of the bill. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I appreciate that at least we've made some changes since last week. That's a good thing, but I am concerned that the people that made submissions, the people that have concerns... For instance, I heard concerns from air carriers, I heard concerns from individuals, I heard concerns from organizations. How will those people and their questions be advised of the changes that have occurred to date? How will their questions which they posed during the consultation process be answered, and how will that information and the answers to all these questions and concerns also be made available to the public? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. As I've indicated in this House previously, the proof will be in the pudding, as it were, as we come forward with a draft or the bill for first and second reading that will lay out the result of all that work, all the many iterations, the improvements, amendments and adjustments that have been made and are currently being finalized so that that fact can happen. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, I appreciate that the changes will be made in the act and that the act will come forward, but at the consultations that I attended there were specific questions from individuals and organizations and there were assurances to those people and those organizations that their questions would be answered, that they would be advised of answers to their questions. So again I ask the Minister, will people be answered? Will the questions that people asked be answered not in the act but in a letter, in an e-mail? We owe it to the people that made presentations and asked questions to give them an answer. So will that be done in a concrete manner apart from the act? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. I'll talk to the department about a concrete response outside of the act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Minister is willing to talk to his department. That's always a good thing. I would like to know from the Minister if he expects that this will be a public document or will it be an individual response to the people who asked the questions. I think, in my mind, the public is also owed these answers, not just individuals. When can we see this?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: If there were public meetings, we'll have to see the best forum to respond. There were public meetings held in every community. As well, there have been e-mails and representations by individual groups and individuals themselves. We'll have to see what the most effective way is to publicize this. Unless the Member is suggesting somehow that we do a blanket response to everybody and maybe publish in the paper or some such thing, I'm not sure what the Member has in mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 441-16(5):
PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are in follow-up to my Member's statement and are related to the consultation

process currently, or just finished, with the Wildlife Act.

Public consultations are an important tool to the GNWT. They allow us to go out and meet with our constituents and residents of the Northwest Territories and hear what they have to say and allow them input into our important acts and legislative programs. Could the Minister tell me -- and he started to go down this road a little bit -- how he intends to provide some comfort to those groups that feel that their voice was not heard during these consultation processes?

Yes, I participated in the briefing and I heard some of the things that they're planning to do with respect to the act, but I'm only one person. We're 11 on this side. The public need to hear it as well. What is the Minister doing to restore some of the confidence of those people that their voices are being heard?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I don't necessarily agree with the Member in terms of the restoring of confidence. There was a very public, long-term process, very expensive and exhaustive, and we will demonstrate that we've been listening, when you look at the bill. That's the comfort that we're going to provide people. Not everybody will be happy. This is a consultative process. We're a consensus government. There's lots of compromise, but this bill, compared to the bill that is currently there -- 32 years old -- is going to be a huge improvement. It's long overdue. It's going to reflect, finally, our obligation under land claims and self-government agreements. It's going to reflect that we've been listening to the concerns from Northerners in all areas. Things like the residency clause; that is where it's going to be reflected and that's where people should be looking.

MR. ABERNETHY: I'd like to thank the Minister for that response. There are other obligations to the ones he's referring to here today. We have an obligation to all the residents in the Northwest Territories, including the non-Aboriginal hunters who don't feel that they have a voice in this act.

I know the Minister's department went out and met with different groups. I'm asking the Minister what he's going to do, or have his department do, to restore some of the confidence to those people that their voices have been heard. If the department has made changes based on what these groups have said, let's stand up and say what those changes are. Let's demonstrate that his department did listen to the people of the Northwest Territories. That's what I'm asking. Can he give us some examples that demonstrate that he heard the people of the Northwest Territories, in particular the

non-Aboriginal hunters who did not participate in the drafting of this act?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'd qualify that in terms of some non-Aboriginal hunters and they were represented very ably by the Government of the Northwest Territories. If the Member will wait until the first part of March for when we come in with the bill for first and second reading, then we'll lay out all the work that's been done, all the amendments that have been made in response to the feedback we've received.

MR. ABERNETHY: Obviously we have a difference of opinion. I feel that it's important to give some people a heads up before we drop this act in front of them. I feel that it's important that the department or, rather, the Minister before he places an act in front of us is sure that everybody's voice has been heard.

Over the 56 versions in the 17 years of developing this act I wonder if the Minister could tell me how much has been spent in consulting each of the two communities, the Aboriginal and treaty rights holders and those without these rights. Could the Minister give me that information?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This process in its entirety has cost well nigh onto \$2 million.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was not a response. I asked specifically what the cost breakdown between the two different communities, the treaty rights holders and the individuals without these rights, what are those individual costs? Also, it's my understanding, at least from the session that I attended, that the department had individuals attending these sessions who were documenting everything that was said. I was wondering if the Minister could confirm that detailed notes were put together and whether or not those detailed notes that explain what they heard could be shared.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'm not quite sure what type of distinction the Member wants to create. We had public meetings -- public meetings -- in every community. Some we went back to twice. Now, was the Member expecting us to do a head count and count who was Aboriginal and who was non-Aboriginal and apportion cost by head count? I don't know what point the Member is making here. The fact is this process for Northerners cost well nigh into \$2 million and, yes, we had note takers at the meeting. Yes, notes were taken. I will check to see what would be the best way to possibly put out a summary of the various observations and feedback that we did receive.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 442-16(5):
BOMPAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment follow-up questions from my Member's statement on the lack of playground equipment over at the Bompas Elementary School in Fort Simpson. The parents group has been fundraising. The Minister was in Fort Simpson. We spoke to the group. I believe there was a commitment at that time by the Minister to the parents group to say that he would assist in purchasing the playground equipment. Will the Minister be considering that?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. First let me commend the parent group for their tireless efforts in fundraising. This will definitely go a long way. As I stated when I was visiting Fort Simpson, I'm willing to work with the parents and willing to work with the DEA. There has been some correspondence between MLA Menicoche, myself and the DEA that we need to collaborate together. Working with the parent group, I must say that they are kick-starting this fundraising initiative and I'm willing to work with that.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: That's exactly what the parents are looking for, that the Minister is willing to work with the community, because now it's a community-based organization; the work with the DEA, the Dehcho Divisional Education Council as well. Once the collaboration continues, will the Education, Culture and Employment Minister be contributing to the Bompas Elementary School playground initiative?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We don't have specific funding for playground equipment that the Member is referring to for replacement of, but I did commit in this House that I'm willing to work with the parents group and the fundraising that they're initiating to see what we can do as a department. I'm willing to work with that DEA member and also the parents group. That will be my commitment.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I think the Minister made a soft commitment here and the parents group are looking for something stronger. They thought that he had said something stronger back in the October meeting. That's the type of commitment that I'm looking for here today, and the parents group is really looking forward to the Minister helping out with this very important issue for the children in Fort Simpson.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I did make a commitment. It may be soft but, as I indicated, my

department will work closely with the DEA. I understand there's been some correspondence on the playground equipment, the cost of it. The Member has alluded to \$60,000 for the playground. That's the number that we need to work with. How much the fundraising initiative of the parents group will be initiating still remains to be seen, but as I made the commitment, let's work with this and work with the community of Fort Simpson to see what will come out of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. For sure the parents have been raising money. I'm going to use \$10,000 as an estimate. They've been working very hard, the parents, the children, the teachers. I'd like to ask the Minister to acknowledge that, that they have been working hard and they will be looking for matching funds.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I definitely acknowledge that. Any group or organization that kick-starts fundraising or other initiatives, that's always something that we want to work with as a department, as the GNWT. If there are matching funds that the Member is alluding to, those are the areas that we need to explore. Again, I'm willing to work with that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

QUESTION 443-16(5):
GNWT SUPPORT FOR DARNLEY BAY
DIAMOND EXPLORATION PROJECT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my Member's statement today I was talking about Darnley Bay Resources and Diadem Resources who are looking for precious metals and diamonds in the community of Paulatuk, just outside of the community; the night of another promising indicator the results of the recent findings and the demands of a number of groups and organizations to see the Paulatuk community participate meaningfully. Will this government devote necessary resources to train people to build infrastructure needed so the local economy can truly benefit?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Darnley Bay project is in the early exploration stages and the president and CEO, Mr. Stephen Reford, was in Paulatuk on February 1st and at that time he announced that there would be two drilling campaigns underway in 2011. We're very excited about that.

As well, Diadem Resources Ltd., which is a 50 percent partner, also announced the results of their diamond drilling on the Franklin diamond project

which is located on Parry Peninsula. The results are very encouraging. There are seven diamondiferous kimberlites discovered, including one microdiamond. So the potential looks very good. As the project progresses, I'm sure that, as in other diamond projects, we would work on developing the necessary infrastructure as we go forward.

MR. JACOBSON: Similar to the funding provided to the Paulatuk Development Corporation for the purchase of the 20-person movable exploration camp, will the government consider providing funding for the economic ventures that require considerable start-up, such as buying the equipment needed and the training of local people? Other than bringing them in from outside, we want meaningful employment. The diamond mines that we have here in the Territory already do not hire from Nunakput, so we want to train our own so that we can take care of ourselves.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That certainly is the basis for the Sustainable Development Policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories. We'd be very pleased to work with the community as opportunities become real and as the results of the exploration are examined and confirmed.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We get the training that is needed as we go forward to the project, that training of all positions of these two major projects that I hope to go through with regard to the local hires before the outsiders come in, basically taking care of our local people in the communities in the region of Nunakput.

Mr. Speaker, would this government be able to set up sort of like a mine training exercise up in the Inuvik region? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The president and CEO, when he visited Paulatuk, his primary purpose was to lay out the groundwork for the hiring of local people as well as fine-tuning the logistical aspects of the project. We have set up mine training projects with other communities and we would be very pleased to approach the Mine Training Society and work with the community of Paulatuk. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 444-16(5):
REDUCTION OF GNWT RED TAPE
FOR SMALL BUSINESS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about the need to work through the red tape and perhaps even create a process that would deal with red tape. Not more red tape, of course.

I'd like to ask questions today to the Minister responsible for the Strategic Investment Committee on Refocusing Government. My first question to that Minister would be: what has this government done through its programming and efforts to reduce red tape for small business and can they cite a few examples? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for refocusing government, Mr. Michael Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The primary initial focus of the Program Review Committee has been on identifying efficiencies within government, things like the proposal to build an office building in Yellowknife, the work that's been done on the pupil/teacher ratio on the inclusive schooling, on the medical travel, and a host of other areas. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, has the government consulted at all with small business in any form on the initiative of red tape and how the government can respond to the needs and requirements that have been created by the administrative burden through the bureaucracy in its requirement and hunger and thirst for more paper? Has the Minister engaged small business? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I, as well, have met with the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses to have lunch with them and talk about some of their concerns. I will point out, back a number of Assemblies ago there was a division or a group within government that was struck to look at red tape, but there's nothing current that I'm aware of. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's effort in trying to answer the question. But, really, other than meeting with them, it doesn't sound as if anything's really come of it. What's stopping the Program Review Office, as a lead Minister as well as, of course, a departmental Minister where the Program Review Office sits, what's stopping the Minister from launching the program review team on this type of initiative, engaging small business to ensure that we're helping them fulfill their paper requirements by dealing with the red tape problem? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I was remiss, Mr. Speaker, as well, to point out that there is a recent initiative called BizPaL that was structured and put in place to, in fact, help small businesses navigate through government and deal with government. In regard to his specific question, I will commit to the Member that we will put that issue on the next agenda for the Refocusing committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to give credit where credit is due regarding BizPaL. That was an initiative put into action by, I believe, Minister Bob McLeod. I would be remiss to mention, though, it was my idea coming from this side of the House to that side, so we should share credit.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister did say the last time I brought a red tape initiative, or I should say to deal with the challenge, that he would bring it to the Refocusing Government committee and nothing happened. There was no reply. I'm just wondering how does the Minister see that we'll address this particular issue the second time around. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I have no present memory of the Member raising this issue before. If he has and I have forgotten it, I apologize. I will personally report back to him following our next Refocusing committee meeting.

I would point out that probably the ultimate remover of red tape for us, especially when the Members talked about regulatory reform and such, is going to be devolution. When we take over authorities in the Northwest Territories and we can adjust our systems, when we're not reliant on systems and programs and regimes that have been set up by a government 5,000 miles away, that we will, in fact, be able to be much more effective, I believe, and much more responsive to the needs of Northerners. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 445-16(5):
GNWT ASSISTANCE FOR EMERGENCY
REPAIRS TO ELDERS' HOUSING

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Seniors. I want to ask the Minister in terms of working with the seniors, working on their issues. We have an issue here, Mr. Speaker, in Fort Good Hope where a senior had to wait almost a couple months to get his house fixed, in terms of frozen water and sewer lines. That senior had to wait a long time. I was up there last Friday and the senior was still waiting for somebody to take care of his place. I want to ask the Minister what type of mechanism is in place to help our seniors in terms of what things within her control that she could make sure that these types of situations are not happening in the North, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister responsible for Seniors, the issues that MLAs and our residents bring forward to my office pertain to various government departments and programs. I work with the relevant departments and

their Minister to resolve some of the issues. I'm not familiar with the particular case that the Member brought up, but I'd be happy to look into the situation and see what we can do and what has been done. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: That's the point I want to make with the Minister. What mechanisms would make her familiar with some of the issues that the different departments have to deal with seniors? It seems like things are still not quite yet connected as the Minister responsible for Seniors, in terms of giving them a strong voice within the departments to tell the Housing go to Fort Good Hope, fix this senior's house up. This senior's wife is crippled. The senior was living on the land. The senior comes back and yet the house is not done. What is this Minister doing to make sure that there's a strong voice for the seniors? Because right now it doesn't seem like we have it.

HON. SANDY LEE: As the Member knows, all of the Ministers here work with the other Ministers when issues are brought up. When I was in Fort Good Hope we had heard from seniors about various issues, and on our return we had conveyed those concerns, whether it be housing or other departments. We've communicated those concerns to the respective Ministers. I will look into seeing how that was followed up, Mr. Speaker.

The Member knows that a Minister does not direct another Minister to do things, but, obviously, we work together to resolve issues that get brought up the by Members and residents. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister, in terms of being a responsible Minister and being responsible for the seniors, there doesn't seem to be a very strong voice for the seniors, coordinating the different departments to help the seniors. As, again, a case in point, this senior, his house was frozen up. It's been like that since even last Friday. It doesn't send a good message that we're taking care of our seniors. How does it, within the government, coordinate these types of issues to get looked at as a priority for our seniors? It doesn't seem like it's working, no matter what type of system we have. I want to ask the Minister if she is interested or willing to look at different mechanisms, that this senior doesn't have to sit for two months while his house is frozen up and run through all the bureaucracy and yet, as of last Friday, still no one has come over to fix their place.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, obviously there is an avenue for a Legislature or next Legislature to consider reorganizing portfolios for seniors or whatever. But from my personal point of view -- and I have had many discussions with the Member about this -- so many things that the seniors need and help with cover different departments and those departments are complex and they need to specialize in those areas, whether they be Health

and Social Services, or Housing or income security. Those on their own are vast programs.

Mr. Speaker, for now it appears that the Member has a very specific situation respecting an elder in Fort Good Hope who needs attention to his housing repair needs. I think, for me, I am interested in getting the information from him and see how we can solve that as soon as possible. I will undertake to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I bring up one specific issue in Fort Good Hope; there are many in the Sahtu on helping the elders. Maybe in other communities they may be the same. I am asking the Minister if she is now looking at the 17th Assembly to look at this. Is there anything in the works that could bring this discussion? I know we are both hoping to do it right away. Can the Minister look at some type of paper or discussion as to how we could help the seniors on various issues?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member that this is a big issue in our small communities. There are a number of seniors who are in need of housing repairs and I think it is a multi-faceted issue. I think it is something that the government, in different departments, as well as local leadership need to work together on resolving this. Because in so many of our communities there is lack of capacity, lack of tradespeople, lack of programs to repair some of the not just houses but lots of things that go in the house like a furnace and all sorts of things. It is something I think the government should look into. I would be happy to have that discussion with the Housing Minister. But in the meantime, with this senior in Fort Good Hope that needs help from us, I would undertake to look into that right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 446-16(5): PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask some further questions to the Minister of ENR to follow up on some of the questions that I asked earlier to see if we can get some clarification as to what the department can do to advise our public and our residents about the results of the consultations that have happened relative to the Wildlife Act.

The Minister at one point, I think in his last response, said he didn't know what I have in mind, so maybe I will try and explain to him what I do have in mind. There were numerous consultations. There were notes taken at those meetings. There were specific questions asked at those meetings. Presumably the department has answered those

specific questions. I would ask the Minister to compile notes of the meetings, compile answers to questions asked and concerns raised and publicize those. Will he do that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will pull that information together. It will be on the ENR website and, where possible, as we discuss that with the Member for Frame Lake, where one of the other Members will look at direct responses as well to those people or organizations that made specific representations. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Minister for that. I would hope that that information would be on the website sooner rather than later and that there would be some public statement to that effect.

There has been concern. I certainly heard concerns at the meetings I was at about infringement on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by some of the provisions or some of the clauses in the draft act. I would like to know from the Minister what the department has done to deal with those concerns, those legal issues. I understand that there may be some kind of a legal opinion being sought, that the Department of Justice analyzes acts from a legal perspective. What is happening at this point to deal with the concerns of the public relative to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms infringements? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, all the legislation that we do as a government is reviewed by Justice to make sure it complies with the senior laws of the land, like rights and freedoms, Canadian Constitution. This bill was no different and is no different. It has been reviewed thoroughly, and while there are some assertions from some quarters that it does not comply, we are of the opinion, clearly, that it does. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, to that review, a couple of the concerns that I know of is the hunter education for only some of our residents, the limitation of age on hunters, those two things for sure and there are a couple of other ones. But I guess what I would like to know from the Minister that the review that was done by the Department of Justice, was that done before these concerns were raised or after? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we have legal counsel with us every step of the way on this piece of legislation looking at all issues, all amendments, changes when concerns are raised to look at the interpretation, make sure that whatever is put into the bill complies completely. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final, short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reference a comment that the Minister made relative to the conference of management authorities. He said that the GNWT has three seats on this body. If GNWT has three seats, will the Minister agree to have one seat for a GNWT representative and allow those two other seats to be filled by members of the public or public organizations? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, it may only be two seats depending on what the final count comes to, but the fact is that we will have some seats at the table and we will look at, as appropriate, bringing other parties, stakeholders, to the table. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, replies to budget address. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Replies to Budget Address

MR. BROMLEY'S REPLY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate this opportunity to reply to the budget address. I want to start off by recognizing that we are in the final year of our term as the 16th Legislative Assembly. We have had some large challenges when we initially got together and started work. We have made some progress on some issues. I want to acknowledge that.

Today I would like to speak to some of my frustrations in lost opportunities and some persistent issues and shortcomings of our budgets. I speak generally of the last four budgets as well as this one and the budget address.

The first one, and I am going to restrict it to two things here today just to try and bring some focus here, is a focus on prevention. I don't think we have done enough in this regard. It has been brought up from the days of our strategic planning to today. One example is especially the need to fully use our opportunities to support people in the critical first years of life. Numerous studies indicate the opportunities that are available here and how achievements in working with prenatal and post-natal, post-partum children can establish an incredible potential for their development and address, really, many of the broad goals of government. So in particular this example would stress childcare and early childhood development programs, which I know we have done some work on but I think there's much room to be doing more. Research informs us that meaningful investment here would serve all of our broad goals.

My second example is Health and Social Services where about half of 1 percent of our Health and

Social Services department budget is focused on promotion and prevention, and I think it's recognized that 3 percent is sort of a minimum requirement in that area. This is a problematic department in terms of the huge issues and challenges and costs we face. So I recognize it's difficult, but it needs attention nevertheless.

The second one is the need to do things in a comprehensive and new way that serves, again, this broad range of goals. I think we're missing the boat here, Mr. Speaker, as I've said repeatedly. We are making some moves in that direction, but there are huge opportunities that remain.

Of course, these two themes are much related to each other. Just by way of developing this a little bit further, everyone needs energy, everyone needs food, and in energy I think of heat and power, transportation. Everyone needs food, everyone needs housing, by way of example. We also need skilled and educated people. We need sound local economies. We need a strong social fabric and strong and healthy families, land and water.

Currently meeting our basic needs is provided by importing goods and services from afar. What are the consequences? Well, the jobs accrue to distant jurisdictions with this approach. Skills are developed by non-residents, courtesy of our support. We export barrels and barrels of money that could be put into local economies and circulate gathering value seven times the denomination. People leave the land and their knowledge is left behind. Local economies suffer and, of course, the relative cost of living increases. The environment suffers as greenhouse gas emissions are increased due to importing from afar and so on, inefficient ways of doing business energy-wise and the social fabric suffers. We lose our cultural roots and become dependent on the system rather than contributing to the system.

So what is this alternative way? What is the new way of doing business that others and myself have spoken for quite often in this House?

First of all, instead of pursuing mega development dreams that will really benefit relatively few people rather than all people, we could choose to focus on developing local resources to meet those basic needs. What does this do for us, this simple theme? It would provide support for developing the skills, knowledge and business opportunities for businesses that meet this approach rather than just broadening business support, support for all these things that meet this approach. It would provide support for education and traditional knowledge of the land retaining this key element in our society, including focus on outdoor education and sports in our school programs. Promotion of healthy activities that recognize the potential of the land to teach, strengthen, heal and connect people with their cultures, spirituality and with each other.

Development and implementation of policy and services that requires the engagement of able, unemployed people receiving government services in activities that support the commons, such as the local supply of food, energy and housing. Examples might be for those receiving housing but unable to pay for it, again, able bodied without childcare needs or with childcare needs provided, start demanding some hours of service for the community. For example, in the area of working in a community garden, learning house maintenance skills and contributing that to public housing in their community, providing energy by being trained in how to use wood saws, chainsaws, and go out and cut woods for a distributed energy system in the community. These are practical things that address exactly these sorts of goals and address all of the issues of developing a strong social fabric, local economy, appropriate skills that are gradually built and become more complex as time goes by.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, again, that we have made some progress on some issues and I don't want to detract about that and detract from that, but I'm focusing on some of the frustrations and opportunities that I see being passed by. Time is passing, in fact, and the challenges are not only continuing, they are looming larger and larger and we need everyone at the table if we want to see ourselves working together. It's time for a new way forward, doing business that is imminently doable and probably this will be to be expected by the next Assembly, but I would encourage us to bring that focus in this last six months or whatever of our regime as the 16th Assembly.

So, once again, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to reply to the address.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. 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. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Motions

MOTION 34-16(5):
SMALL HIGH SCHOOL
STAFFING FUNDING FORMULA,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a motion.

WHEREAS Members of this Legislative Assembly have repeatedly raised concerns about the quality of high school education in small community schools and the need for many high school graduates to receive upgrading before continuing on to post-secondary studies;

AND WHEREAS graduation rates remain low in small communities relative to the Northwest Territories average;

AND WHEREAS schools delivering grades 10 to 12 need a minimum of three secondary teacher positions in order to deliver the required range of programming;

AND WHEREAS schools with fewer than 20 full-time equivalent students enrolled in grades 10 to 12 do not receive funding for three teacher positions under the current formula;

AND WHEREAS quality high school education is an essential building block in achieving this Legislative Assembly's goal of healthy educated people and this government's Building our Future and Maximizing Opportunities strategic initiatives;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories revise the school staffing funding formula to ensure that all schools with at least 10 full-time equivalent students enrolled in grades 10 to 12 receive funding for at least three secondary teacher positions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I've listened over the years and listened to a number of Members' statements, listened to the government's position on high school graduates in our small communities, especially in our small communities, Mr. Speaker. In 2009 the Northwest Territories-wide graduation rate was 53 percent. For smaller communities it was at 38 percent, Mr. Speaker.

Knowing these numbers, we are doing a disservice to our smallest communities, especially the students. Most of those who graduate, Mr. Speaker, too many of them have to go back to Aurora College or some upgrading institution just to go and take trades programs or university or any other post-secondary studies. Graduation rates in our small communities are still smaller and lower, compared to the rest of the Northwest Territories.

The reason I bring up this motion is that in our smaller communities especially, we do not have quality programming for grades 10 to 12 students. The current formula now is not doing us any good. Even if you have 10 to 15 students, you need critical mass under the current formula now to have more teachers. Right now you get 2.26 teachers per year in our schools.

Educators are complaining to us in the small communities. We need help in our small communities. We don't have the higher numbers such as Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith or

Inuvik. They're okay. They have the critical mass. They have the numbers. In my region we don't have the numbers. Teachers are frustrated. They have to deliver a program they know darn well won't meet the quality that they want their students to achieve.

The students are asking for more quality programs and more teachers so they have a chance to at least get into a trades program or university program. They're saying, what's wrong with us? Why are we not getting the same type of funding as in Yellowknife or Inuvik? Why can't they fix that? They can do nothing about that. Then they wonder why they'll have to go to Aurora College to do an upgrading program; do another year because the current formula doesn't allow us to do this.

We're asking for that to be looked at and to be considered, to give our students a fair chance at a career that they choose to pursue.

We've done some calculations, some rough estimates using the 2010-2011 student enrolment numbers. We think that it will cost around \$150,000, that ballpark. For example, five schools would benefit: Tsiigehtchic, Fort Liard, Dettah, Ndilo and Colville Lake. Schools in that range would benefit greatly. Compared to many other things that this government spends this money on, it would be a small investment that this motion is asking for. It's also in keeping with the goal we set at the beginning of our term for healthy, educated people and also with the government building our future and maximizing our opportunities and initiatives.

I think that it's very reasonable to ask for the minimum funding of three person years for schools with grade 10 or more, full-time equipment for students in grade 10 to 12. It's a reasonable request that this motion is asking for and we think that this small investment will have a big payoff down the road.

I ask for support from the Members on this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Mr. Yakeleya for bringing forward this motion and also extend my appreciation for letting him allow me to work with him on this particular motion and seeing the development.

I believe that the best investment that this government can make in any program is education. We can put them in health and we can put them in wildlife programs, we can put them in business programs, but the absolute best programming that we can put our dollars in is a good, solid education that will enable the next generation coming behind with the knowledge and attitude to go forward and pursue their dreams with the best of abilities, rather

than being handcuffed with the lack of being able to pursue those dreams.

I know what Mr. Yakeleya is talking about because I've seen it myself, growing up in a small community. I realize and have experienced the limited programming that they have to offer. I must put a caveat on that particular point. I also saw ingenuity at its finest, where teachers took on programming that they weren't necessarily familiar with and were able to deliver excellent things on the skinniest of budgets, to ensure that students wouldn't be held back in any particular way. In being one of the fortunate students and being able to finally come to Yellowknife to finish my high school, all of a sudden you stepped into a new realm of educational opportunities that we did not see and experience. When you go to a biology class that didn't have all the microscopes and beakers and things like that. Or you go to a chemistry class where nobody can teach chemistry in that particular school. It becomes very challenging for them to ensure that the students who want to pursue the dreams of higher education, who want to be contributors to our society, can't be limited by what really is just one or two additional teachers into our system. I go back to my original point, which is this is one of the best investments we can make in education.

I recognize the challenges put forward and recognized by Mr. Yakeleya's motion and I think it makes a lot of sense. With those limited opportunities, what are we asking our students? In all fairness, are we being fair to them by not giving them the opportunity? It's almost a shame to say or look back to say that the reason you didn't succeed is because the government couldn't find money for one more teacher in your particular school to ensure you had a balanced programming that you could actually apply at university. In some cases that's actually the particular case, because schools are forced to deliver programming on the skinniest of marginal budgets in order to get through. Recognizing, yes, that some schools are very small, but the students are still just as important in those small schools as they are in our larger schools. I think of them in no less value. Are we empowering them with the appropriate skills and abilities to succeed to pursue their dreams, whether it's a trade school or a university or college programming? Of course, the question constantly comes up as to why do our students, when they speak from the small community perspective, need to go to Aurora College or another type of learning institution to upgrade those skills? That by itself should raise questions of fairness.

It's incumbent on us to ensure that our successive generation is empowered with the most abilities. I think it makes a lot of sense. If this motion could boil down to a simple point, it's about fairness and quality programming, recognizing the restraints and

difficulties and the challenges that are in there with the district education authorities and boards in the small communities, I think this can be one of the pillars that propels it to move forward. If you're a parent, you don't want to have the stigma by saying if I send my child to my home community school, they're going to have to go to Aurora College years down the road. That's not really fair. How do you think the students feel about that particular programming, knowing that their graduation certificate is not as reasonable a merit to quality as someone else's? I mean, it's again my point of it's not fair to temper their dreams just because of where they live. When it really comes down to it, it is only over a few short investment dollars that could go that extra way. If anyone thinks that's money saved on the system, well, we're just putting it into another pile or into somebody else's budget to teach them later on. It doesn't make sense.

In closing, I want to stress that this probably does a lot from a community perspective, way more than the money alone. The community knowing that their students are graduating with the same quality as any other schooling system in the Northwest Territories is quite an exciting thing. The fear of that and that's not to emphasize that the quality of programming is bad, I just believe that it's limited. I think its limitation is what the problem is here. I would not want to let it be clouded to assume that the teachers are doing a bad job, because they are not, but they are working with the limited resources they have. I think that's what's holding some of the students back from some of their dreams.

I will be supporting this motion and I again thank Mr. Yakeleya for letting me be a part of this. I think if government listens very carefully, they can go through their own analysis to realize that it is not an expensive initiative that could pay big dividends over the long haul and it meets our goals and objectives as a vision of the 16th Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will support the motion brought forward by Mr. Yakeleya and Mr. Hawkins today. However, I think that if we think that having three teachers in a small community for grades 10, 11, and 12 is going to result in the, I don't know, some utopia in education, I think we're sadly mistaken.

The fact of the matter is that it would be an improvement and, therefore, it should be an option. I, as a parent and as a representative of many other parents, believe that what would be best for the students would be options. By the time a student gets to grade 10, 11, 12, maybe it's time for a change of scenery, if that were an option. Maybe it is time to get to a larger centre in a larger community where there are more sports

opportunities and more part-time work available, more interaction with a larger body of students. I think we as a government should make options available.

Like I said, I support the motion. I think it is a step in the right direction, but I think with that, there need to be options for students who do want to pursue other things. There are many students in Hay River, even the community of a size of the school in Hay River, that still need to go for upgrading. Many, many still do need to go for upgrading. Like I said, I support it, but I think we as a government need to think. We sometimes associate going someplace else for high school with the proverbial residential school. I know from experience, my own children came out of Hay River to a larger centre like Yellowknife around the time they were 14 years old. Jordan graduated from St. Pat's; Jeffrey came here for Grade 11; Jillian came here when she was 14. It was a very positive impact on them to have more access to different types of subjects, a larger group and more opportunities. I will support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will be supporting the motion. I have the same issues in Sachs Harbour right now with no grade 10, 11 and 12 teacher in the community. Students are leaving for the community of Inuvik for schooling and there's no place for them to stay. No safe place that they're saying that there is to stay. We do have plans. I'm trying to work with the Minister's office to get a place in the community for them so they can continue their grade 10, 11 and 12. The options are very little.

The community needs a high school teacher. It's gone too far already. The social passing is in now that kids are being passed and having to go back as soon as they've got grade 12 for a year or year and a half of education in Inuvik or Arctic College just to try to get into Aurora College. That's not right. We should be stopping this right from grade K to 12 in the smaller communities. Stop it before it starts.

I wish we could fix this all in one fell swoop but it can't be done. We have to start off slow. I think this motion will start it off. It's all small communities that are being affected, not just the ones that are named, all across the Territory.

I do support it and I look forward to putting it to the vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. To the motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also be supporting this motion. The Minister mentioned in his budget address a number of

places where additional funding was being planned for expenditures. One of those was the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. I think those sorts of things fit exactly with this program, from what I know of it. I recommend that we do have the dollars for this and that it be made. I will be supporting the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to share some information with the Members on the Member for Sahtu for bringing this motion forward on the high school staffing funding formula. Small high schools in the Northwest Territories, as you know, are funded through the school funding framework. We are talking about approximately eight communities. Once communities have reached 10 students or more, then there are options that have been referred to as grade extensions. That's an option that we have been working with and has been very successful.

The Member also stated that 2.26 teaching positions are needed. It's not only that, Mr. Speaker. In addition to teaching staff, there are classroom assistants, program support teachers and counsellors within the school system. However, Mr. Speaker, I'm more than willing to direct my department to review the funding provided to senior secondary programming for small schools, taking into consideration the motion that's before us. This motion is a direction to our government, so Cabinet will be abstaining from the vote. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I will allow the mover of the motion some closing comments. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just by hearing the Minister's comments I think the government has a heart. Today is happy Valentine's Day, so I think they have a heart.

I want to take the opportunity, also, to wish my sweetheart a happy Valentine's Day, while I have the floor.

Mr. Speaker, certainly, when you look at situations like this, this is the reality of some of the smaller schools and some of the quality of education that students have to do Monday to Friday, day in and day out. That's what we're up against. We have larger centres and this does not impact them. There's the critical mass there. Certainly teachers are well aware of this. They know the hard work that they do in the small communities. They know the resources they have to use and be available and they try their best. Certainly when they finish a university degree in teaching they want to do their best for their students. When their resources are not there, they do what they can do. By having the

Minister listen and by having the government listen, maybe we can help the teachers and the students.

Teachers know the work that they have to do in the small communities. Sometimes they get overwhelmed that they have to satisfy the teachers and the school, the parents and the children. What I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, is that this motion will greatly improve the quality of programming we want in our small communities. It's a small step to a bigger picture by having, hopefully one day, the same access of programming in the larger centres. We don't know when that's going to happen, because we just have the critical mass. You know it and I know it. But we've got to help our students one step at a time to get there. They do come from smaller communities into larger centres -- I do hear them -- because there are no more opportunities. Fine. But there's also the students that miss home, miss family and miss the culture. It's hard on them also, because you don't know if their grandparents are going to be around long or something's going to happen to their family. They are looking at those types of things when families are being sent out.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that if the Minister could direct his staff to look at an investment like this. I heard it on the radio this morning from one of the guest speakers saying that if we were to invest in some of our communities and programs and especially within our youth, that it will pay off in the long run. This motion is saying it's doable to help with this government here. I want to ask this government here to see if it can do it within the life of this government here, to give this direction to the staff.

I just want to thank the Members for allowing me to bring this forward and to support the young kids here and ask this government to have a heart, especially on today's date here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: 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: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy; Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments' Interim Response to

“Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future”; Tabled Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts Over \$5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010; Tabled Document 133-16(5), NWT Main Estimates 2011-2012; Tabled Document 135-16(5), Response to the Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act; Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act; Minister's Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights; and Minister's Statement 88-16(5), Sessional Statement, with Mr. Abernethy in the chair.

By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 31-16(5), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, committee. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. In front of us today are tabled documents 4, 30, 38, 62, 75, 103, 133, 135; Bills 4, 14, 17, 20; and Ministers' statements 65 and 88. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will continue with Tabled Document 133-16(5), NWT Main Estimates, 2011-2012, with the Department of Health and Social Services and, hopefully, getting into the Department of Education, Culture and Employment today as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): With that, we'll take a short break and come back with the Tabled Document 133-16(5).

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Before going on break we agreed to do Tabled Document 133-16(5), NWT Main Estimates, 2011-2012, starting with the Department of Health and Social and then going to Education, if there's time. Minister Lee, do you have witnesses that you'd like to bring into the Chamber?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree to allow the witnesses into the Chamber?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Sergeant-at-Arms, can I please get you to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Thank you, Minister Lee. Can I please get you to introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left I have the deputy minister of Health and Social Services, Paddy Meade, and to my right is Mr. Derek Elkin, director of finance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Welcome. When we left off we were on page 8-29. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to try and continue where I seem to recall I left off some days ago.

I want to just follow up a little bit on the training of our nurses, the Nurse Practitioners Program and the Introduction to Advanced Practice. I'm still looking on some clarity there. I guess the first one is we've heard from the Minister of ECE. Does the Department of Health and Social Services also agree that we need to continue to increase our use of nurse practitioners in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, yes, there is a need and there is room for more nurse practitioners. We have vacant positions in some communities for NPs. We don't have a vacancy in Yellowknife, but in regions and in communities. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chairman, what is its current state, contrasted with the immediately previous state, of our support from this department through ECE for the training of nurse practitioners?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, the investments that the department has been making through HR has stayed consistent over the last number of years. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: That is the past. I assume that is also the current. What is the planning for the future? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I think that is something that we are and we need to work on over the next month or two as we work toward the next business plan. As the stats have shown in the House, we have over the next three years 60 to 70 grads of nursing school coming out of Aurora College. We have other human resource needs. We have two long-term career centres being built, for example, and both, especially Sahtu, has shown their interest in training their local staff to work at the long-term care facilities. It is something we need to look at. We want to expand home care services and we need to look at training for home care services, workers to work in those jobs. It is something that we need to review. At the same

time, we have fiscal pressure, but the priorities are to make sure that our training programs are meeting the needs of what the workplace needs are. I think we need to look at that. That is part of the review. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would presume that the Minister's earlier observations that we do need nurse practitioners and we will continue to push for increased use of them would enter into that review. Is the funding secure for the 2011-12 fiscal year? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, we are funding until the end of 2012. We need to review our money, our program and training needs and work with Education and HR to see where we go from here. As the Members know, we will be reviewing in the next business plan cycle, which actually begins right after, as soon as the budget is over. We will be working toward that April, May, June and the Members will have a look at that. I think it is an area that needs a thorough review. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to turn quickly to the Introduction to Advanced Practice training at Aurora College. My understanding is that in the past, essentially all of the Bachelor of Nursing students were able to take the Introduction to Advanced Practice courtesy of the two departments' support. Is that true? Is that continuing? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, it is true. However, it is also my information that many of the employees have gone through that program and they don't need to... There are less people who are in need of that program because once you take it, you are done. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am having a hard time with finding any horse sense in that. Mr. Chairman, obviously we have a continuing intake of students. We have continuing revolving people in our communities. Could the Minister match those up for me somehow?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the deputy minister to give more details on that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Ms. Meade.

MS. MEADE: Mr. Chairman, historically that program was also used for people in our casual pool and required many of the programs or the people that we are now using -- locums, long-term casuals -- already have completed this program. We have actually had a reduced intake by interest level simply because people have this. Part of the review is who we need to target with this program to ensure that it is hitting the right people and also, as the Minister spoke before, where are the needs and how do we adjust what we are doing as far as northern teaching methods, given the pressures

that we have and how fast we can focus on the various levels of nursing and the needs for those nurses. For example, for obstetrics practice and other areas in some of the change of practice, how do we upgrade and focus on that? We are having ongoing discussions with ECE and Aurora and that will be part of the review. On this, the AIP, I think it is a valuable program issue. What is the focus group now and how do we marry that up in the overall training? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Meade. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chairman, again, it seems a fairly straightforward thing to me. We have regular intakes of Bachelor of Nursing students. We are sending them out to communities. We need to make sure they have the training. I assume, within the deputy minister's remarks, that will be assured and perhaps I can just get confirmation of that. Thank you.

MS. MEADE: Mr. Chairman, I think the issue is practice ready and whether that program is actually geared to what is needed in the various communities and how much on-the-ground training needs to happen. This should not be unique to our program. It is a situation faced in western Canada that I am aware of. The issue of intro advanced practice, we have to assess what is actually required, given the way that our practice is changing. That is what I am talking about. It is not a guarantee for the program as it exists. It is a guarantee to say what do we need in the future, given where our graduates need to go and how we can best support and train them. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chairman, our deputy minister is really just providing the justification for a course tune-up. They are not taking the course and making sure that practice in remote and rural communities is provided. The bottom line is this is a highly valuable course. The instructors that have probably more experience than our remote and rural communities has a nurse in charge, et cetera, than anybody in the room here in the House have spoken to me about the value of this course. I am happy to trust the professionals there.

Another issue I would like to just touch on briefly is this House has called repeatedly for a milk subsidy and, to our chagrin, we have continually been refused that. The need doesn't go away. The Minister of ECE provided a one-time program that has now fallen through the floor. It was nice to have that one-time program, but it still leaves resolution of this. Is the Minister working to get that in place through her work with ECE and what other resources she has at hand? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I have to go to weeks back when that file was more alive than it is now. I just haven't had the latest update on that, but I do believe Education, Culture and Employment was spearheading that file. I could say to the Member, you know, frankly, that we are hard pressed to come with new initiatives. I know that should there be choices for the Member to make, he will put this on top of probably lots of other things.

From where I stand, we are under a \$36 million deficit. We have restraint in place in every part of our program. There are lots of things that we would like to be able to do that we are not able to do. In all honesty, I have not been able to find money to give milk subsidy to our residents. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Mr. Bromley, your time is up. I'll go to the next person on the list, but before we do that I'll just remind my colleagues in committee to keep our questions to the nature of the page that we're on. The last bunch of questions that were asked were probably more appropriate for 8-17, which is health, human resources. So we're on community health programs on page 8-29 and I'll go to the next on my list, which is Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have to wait then, I guess, to benefit the process. I'll just hold my questions. I was going to follow up on some questions my colleague Mr. Bromley had, but I'll hold off until the other page. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The next person on my list is Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I want to ask the Minister about the diabetic program and the community programs for the Sahtu and the funding that's going into our communities for diabetic educational prevention, treatment programs. Is the department increasing their funding as diabetes is increasing in my region and would we see a Sahtu home-grown diabetic program in the years to come? Right now our program is offered, I believe or I think, in Yellowknife and Inuvik and they're administrating this program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no increase in our budget for I don't think any program. Any of the new initiatives are very specific areas in the strategic investment community initiatives and that was outlined in our opening statement. This is a very status quo budget and that was made very clear by the Minister of Finance when he brought down the budget on day two of the session. But we do understand that delivering the diabetes program to our people is part of our core programming and we do that

through our regional offices with the assistance from the knowledge that headquarters can provide. As well, in the Sahtu, as we have tried to do in other communities, I am aware that in the Sahtu we are using technology and telehealth to provide some programs in areas like diabetes support. As well, I am aware that in my travels to Sahtu communities that health care staff at the ground level are aware of speaking to and talking to the people and giving them support on chronic disease management and part of that is diabetes education. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The point I wanted to make, again, reflects to the many priorities within health care, many priorities within this specific budget item we're talking about and that health care is not quite equal across the North here and they're doing their best. I know that some of the health centres have the technology to hook up with some of the other larger hospitals to look at issues such as diabetes. My point is, I'm hoping that this Minister, within the life of this government, makes some strong recommendations to look at the seriousness of diabetes in our small communities and makes some strong recommendations to have some strong programs in our communities. This is a very dangerous disease. It's increasing every year more and more and we need to really put this issue at the forefront, like alcohol and drug programs, and have our own region take care of it. So I just wanted to say that.

I also wanted to say that I look forward to a day where we could have the Midwifery Program in our region. Right now we have it in Smith and Yellowknife and the people in Yellowknife are sending a petition around to have it here. Again, I'm looking forward to seeing where other regions can take advantage of it. We did have it at one time, now we no longer have it. Now we have new rules to follow and new technology that we have to learn. So I hope that the Minister can put in some strong recommendations to improve the Midwifery Program not only in Yellowknife and Fort Smith but also in our communities. It has a lot of cultural significance if that program moves ahead. I do support having one here in Yellowknife and one in Fort Smith, but let's move out beyond that and hope that that's in the long-term planning.

Mr. Chair, I wanted to ask the Minister about midwifery. What will it take to have that program in the books so the health boards can look at it? Now, I say that to support our families in our communities, because I'm afraid that these types of programs would be decentralized. If there's a discussion about health boards maybe in the future being amalgamated into one super board, I fear that along with it some of the programs are also going to be amalgamated and we won't see the programs we want in our region. So I want to ask the Minister is that type of discussion happening at

her senior management level and also with government.

I'd like to finish this off with the support we need for the residential school survivors. It's a huge issue. Our people in our correctional facilities talk about the residential school issues. People in our communities talk about the residential school issues. We have an interagency committee set up by this government under the direction of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment that deals with a vast array of residential school issues. This department is part of that interagency committee. In my communities, these issues are still alive and well. Last weekend I went to Tulita and sat with an elder and talked about this issue for about an hour. We just don't seem to have the support there to deal with this type of issue. I was hoping that this Minister would go to the Government of Canada and press them hard on support in our communities, not for just one-time funding but ongoing funding. A lot of issues point to residential school and we're not meeting or supporting our people to deal with those issues. I was hoping that the Department of Health would take a serious look at this, not from a statistical point of view or from a clinical but from a cultural point of view.

The Minister has supported a community in my riding to bring an elder into my riding. It took a long time, but we got the elder there and I want to thank her and her staff for working with my people to bring this elder in there. The elder talked and saw many people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and they really appreciated it. That's what I've been supporting all along, is having an alternative method to look at how we deal with issues such as residential school. I know that we can do something. It's been proven successful in the last couple of days and the last week in the Sahtu by having this elder come into our communities. Again, I appreciate the Minister for making this happen. The people are happy they got to see this elder. There were quite a few people.

I want to just close with these being some of the concerns I'm going to raise with the Minister here.

HON. SANDY LEE: Just in order of questions the way the Member raised it. On chronic disease management, which includes diabetes support, the Member asked if we were spending more money in the Sahtu. I answer that we're not spending more money, but that is not to say we're not doing the work, because that is part of our core business. The nurses and health care workers in our communities are equipped to help our people with managing chronic diseases, and diabetes is one of them. We use technology, if necessary, to support that. I am aware, in all of my travels in the Sahtu communities, that they have men clinic, women clinic, baby clinic, and then diabetes clinic. Those

are all within the mandate of our health care professionals to do that every day. Diabetes management and chronic disease management is part of our Foundation for Change action plan. It is our priority.

The second thing is midwifery. We've had this discussion last week. We are working on a territory-wide strategy. I strongly support expansion of midwifery in communities. I think there is a strong case to be made to expand it to regional centres like Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Hay River and Inuvik. I think we need to look at a less medical-oriented model. The one we are practicing right now is heavily doctor centred, to use a layperson's language. We want to look at what Nunavut is doing, which is to use more traditional midwives. We have begun our work. With the opening of a new health centre and wellness centre in Norman Wells, I think there is an opportunity for us to look at the long-term view of working on a Midwifery Program for the Sahtu region. It will take careful planning and investment in resources. We need to train and find interested women who would be interested in doing that. It is something that I strongly believe in, especially for communities where there is just not a lot of help for pre- and post-natal support for mothers and babies.

The department is not engaged in thinking and talking about a super board. I realize that this topic has come up. We are reviewing the governance model. We will be talking to the committee on how to go forward from there. I can tell you, from working with the Joint Leadership Council and working with the chairs, we are working more toward how to work together as one unit. We come as two PAs and the health authority chairs, but we have worked really hard over the last year to work as one unit, work with each other, support each other and understand deeply that changes we make in one area and one authority and one region affects everybody else and we need to work together in making the changes for the benefit of the whole.

Residential school programming. I appreciate the Member's comments on that. It is something that our department is involved in many ways, because our mental health and addictions programs and other aspects of programs that we deliver are directly or indirectly related to the impact of residential school. The huge summit that's going to happen in Inuvik we are involved in working with the local communities to support the people that will be attending that residential school gathering, which will be a national gathering. I'm also aware that although it was slow in getting started, the federal program that's available to support residential survivors is gaining ground. I was in Inuvik and talking to some of the Gwich'in leaders who are supporting residential school survivors. I think there is less intake than there should be. Even

the Dene Nation leadership and other Aboriginal leaders have said that people are taking up that program more and more. I would encourage everybody to tap into that federal program. Obviously I am in regular contact with my federal counterpart and I'd be happy to advocate, and I do, on issues that are important and that the Member has raised.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Reminding everybody that we're on page 8-29, community health programs. Any more questions on page 8-29? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Speaking briefly, I want to thank my colleague for raising those issues and especially the Minister's response provided on the Midwifery Program. I think that's a very key area and I can't help but note that the Minister is giving quite different feedback now than perhaps in budgets past. I'm very happy to see that and appreciate that. I'm gathering that some work has been done to consolidate the view that there are benefits to those programs. Is that something the Minister would be prepared to share with us at some point in time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming that the Member is referring to the Midwifery Program, and the Foundation for Change speaks to coming up with a territorial-wide strategy by the end of next fiscal year. It will take some work and, as I said in committee, we will bring stakeholders and we will review this program. I was just talking about the importance of expanding this, talking about that I personally believe and that is the direction that I am giving to the department, is that we need to look at not just what's going on right now, which is very heavily medical-based midwifery programming in Yellowknife and Fort Smith where midwives depend very much on physicians, but what we have is the reality in Fort Simpson and Inuvik and Norman Wells is that we need to tap into a more traditional midwifery practice that is sort of similar to what Nunavut is doing. What they have there are registered midwives working with more traditional midwives, and that should be a model to look at. It's more musing but that's sort of the vision that I have for the Midwifery Program and we have some months to work on that. We don't have anything right now to give to you, but I have no doubt that we'll be working with the committee as we move forward on this. It will be a massive project to work out a territorial model.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for those remarks. I have had occasion to visit with clients who did have access to midwifery in the NWT, visited this weekend and they certainly pointed out the benefits of the program and one of them is still

going through the process of finding herself using the emergency services and stuff the second time around without midwifery services and comparing and contrasting the cost that that must be on the system to the first time through with midwifery services. I'm very happy to see there is strong interest from the Minister in pursuing this. It overlaps I think with my second question, and last question, hopefully.

I have applauded the department's stated objective of greater use of traditional Aboriginal knowledge in the health system but have noted the lack of a plan to actually do this. Here's one specific example: the traditional practice of midwifery. What is the department doing in this budget to fill that gap and come up with a system so something does actually happen on incorporating traditional practices in our health care system?

HON. SANDY LEE: I have to go back to the opening principle of this budget, which is we do not have a whole lot of new initiatives. So we do not have anything new, I don't think, than what was there before.

Having said that, the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority is working on a traditional healing project. We are looking to see what... It's a study on how to apply some of the traditional practices into modern medicine. It's not to replace modern medicine but to make more traditional healing practices compatible to modern medicine. We expect that will be done shortly and we need to look for ways to apply that across the other authorities. It's something I've been speaking on with the Joint Leadership Committee and the other chairs. We have different projects going on. We have traditional healing work going on in the Deh Cho and then we have some of the child protection work that are more sensitive to Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal practices in the Tlicho that we want to share across the board. That's where we are with that topic. But it will require some investments, as well, to apply that across the board.

MR. BROMLEY: Again this is a stated objective of the department, so I'm assuming there is an intent to work in this area. There are some things happening, obviously, which I'm happy to hear about. If there's a plan in place, I think we can usually make better progress. I think experience has shown with a good plan in place than without one in place. I'm just raising that issue. I'll leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. No question, more of a comment. Would the Minister like to make a response?

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would not disagree with that. I just want to note that Foundation for Change action plan has a number of priorities and objectives. It's a three-year plan and there are some areas where we are able to fund it,

but we have made it clear from the beginning that those are planned, those are what we want to do, subject to finding resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. We are on page 8-29. Next on my list for page 8-29 is Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not asking to go back, but I will provide some explanation on page 8-28. It explains what the programs are that enable individuals with special living requirements to stay in their homes, yada yada yada. I'm just curious specifically on page 8-29 how much is attributed to that specific budget line item. How is that further broken out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we get the Member to restate that question? Page 8-29 and he was talking about persons needing assistance to live at home? I'm not sure; if he could give us more information, we could answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. For clarity, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Pointing to page 8-28, the last bullet. Programs to enable individuals with special living requirements, yada yada yada.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Lee, he's asking for a financial breakdown for that bullet, I believe.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That speaks to various programs that we have within the department which is funded to authorities to assist our residents who need special support. In Yellowknife we deliver that program through Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority who funds to YAACL and YWCA and other homes and facilities. Is the Member asking for a specific dollar amount for that or is that program criteria that he's looking for?

MR. HAWKINS: I'm looking for the program funding. So in other words, the dollar amount. If the dollar amount, how is that particularly... How would that line item be broken out? It's easy to say \$5 million, but what does that actually interpret? Does it break off from there into further programming? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: That program is broken into different authorities and different programs. We will have to undertake to get that. We don't have specific amounts that attach to that bullet. That bullet is a statement of programs and services we do provide. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I'll take the commitment on providing the breakout of how that statement is met through funding and how that's budgeted under what titles. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you. We will get it to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. We're on 8-29. Next on my list, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Try as I might, I was going to try to stretch things out a little bit and get some questions in on 29, but I'm going to seek unanimous consent of committee to go back to 8-21 just for a few seconds. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): The Member would like to return to page 8-21. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. We'll go back to page 8-21. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to follow up with some of the questions my colleague Mr. Bromley had and I know Mr. Abernethy had earlier during this session. It gets back to graduating nurses and the possibility of them gaining employment in some of our smaller communities where services are desperately needed. I just wanted to get some assurances from the Minister that the Community Health Nursing Program is going to be maintained. The reason I say so is because in letters that graduating students this year in the Northern Nursing Program... They received a letter in January indicating that funding was available for the Grad Placement Program for 2011 but it didn't say anything about future years. Also, if you look at the academic calendar for Aurora College, there's no indication that the Community Health Nursing Program is going to be run in 2011-12. I just want to get some assurances from the Minister today that that program will actually, in fact, be run, and how are we going to get some of the northern nursing grad students into that program and out into the communities working in the small communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you. I'm going to invite my deputy minister to add details, if she feels they're needed.

I think we're mixing up a whole bunch of programs here. First of all, I want to say, because I received an e-mail from a student who was I think offended, maybe she was, that I was suggesting... She thought that I was suggesting that a graduate out of a Nursing Program from Aurora College is not ready to be a nurse. That's not in any way what I meant. I think what we're talking about is being practice ready. In any profession, whether you're an engineer, lawyer, doctor, nurse or whatever, you learn certain things from school, but the practice at the community level or a hospital setting or public health or home care are a little different and we

need to make sure that we support them through that. Of course, the nurses that graduate out of Aurora College are qualified to be a nurse. There is no question about that.

We facilitate our nursing grads through a Graduate Employment Program and our government is committed to facilitate them so that we recruit and retain as many of those grads to work in our communities in the North as much as possible. They're going to be asked to give a preference of communities but they may not get to work exactly where they had asked for. But we are committed to hiring them anywhere in the Northwest Territories.

Community nurses, CHN is one program, but if given the right support and resources and mentoring we may be able to accommodate new grads into different authorities. That's just everyday work that the department is engaged in.

The other thing we should keep in mind is that what Aurora College provides has to be in line with what the health care system needs. We provide funding to HR and ECE to deliver these programs, but I think it is totally acceptable and expected that we review these programs to make sure that people we train are in line with what jobs are required. As I said earlier, the Foundation for Change action plan has a vision for more home care workers and home support workers and resident aide workers. Those are really good community-based jobs and counselling programs. There are lots of human resource needs that we need to marry up between the Department of Health and Social Services and Aurora College.

We're also aware that in the next three years we're going to be graduating about 70 to 80 nurses. I think it's reasonable to think that maybe we have tapped off on the number of nurses that we can hire and then we need to look at other programming. We're saying, my deputy minister and Education and Aurora College, we're going to review all of our training programs and see where, not all, but the programs that we are providing with our own money and make sure that we're training the people we need.

I'm sorry for the long answer but I think it is important. We are looking at all aspects and we are committed to funding to 2012 and we need to work on where we go from here with those training programs. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Chairman, I know the Minister gave me a long answer, but it really didn't answer the question that I had. That is, where is the CHN program, the Community Health Nurse Program at Aurora College in 2011-12? It's not there. It's not on the academic calendar. I'm trying to understand why it's not there when the Minister is stating all the good reasons why it should be. That's the issue that I'm bringing up, Mr. Chairman.

The Minister says she didn't mean to say that northern nursing grads weren't trained enough to get out of the program and into jobs. She might not have meant to say that, but that's what she said. That's why they're offended. Because the Minister said, "I don't think they'd be able to apply for a job from the website." That's offensive. That's a program from the University of Victoria. A reputable, reputable school. The answer the Minister provided me the other day where she talked about the 11 grads last year, there were two of them that got jobs on their own. They didn't go through the Graduate Placement Program, even though I think the Minister thought that 11 of them did. They didn't. Two of them got jobs on their own. And you know what? Nursing graduates from universities across the country apply on jobs that are posted on websites across this country and get jobs. That happens, Mr. Chairman. Again, I think it was offensive what the Minister said the other day in regard to our northern nursing students and I think she owes them an apology, at the very least.

Again, I want to ask the Minister where is the Community Health Nursing Program. Why is it not on the academic calendar? I really, really want to know that. Why isn't it on the academic calendar for 2011-12 at Aurora College? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: With all due respect, he is completely misinterpreting what I said about the website. Mr. Chairman, my answer was the grads coming out of Aurora College don't need to go and respond to ads for nursing positions because we have a program that we are working with them, which is the Northern Graduate Employment Program. That has been set up for HR and so we have a separate path to facilitate them because we do want to work with them and we want to recruit and retain them. The question was why aren't the jobs on the website so that they can apply, and my answer was they don't necessarily have to do that, not that they can't. Not that they can't be qualified for the jobs. I think it's important for this House to tell the grads that we appreciate you, that we are glad that you have gone through the Nursing Program for four years and we are here for you to work with you. I want to commit again that I told them and I wrote the e-mail back to the student to say that I have asked my officials and HR and health authority people to go there to talk to them so that they can have their questions answered.

CHN program is still there, but it is fully subscribed. We have people there already. We are not able to bring in any more new people at the moment, which is another reason why we need to review all of our HR training for health and social services. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to belabour the point here, but Wednesday, February 9, 2011, page 19 unedited Hansard quote from the

Minister: "They wouldn't be, I don't think, ready to apply to a job that is available on the website right away." Those are her direct words from Hansard on Wednesday. Again, I think that is offensive. It is offensive to individuals who spent four years, and we made it a four-year degree program. That is an offensive line.

Like I said, the Minister, at the very least, owes an apology to those grads, some of whom won't need the Graduate Replacement Program. I am not sure if the Minister understands that. They have practicums. They have been there for four years. They can walk into some positions and they should be able to apply on some positions. That was my point the other day.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I really am struggling to understand. I know the Minister says there are programs fully subscribed but where is it for 2011-12? It is not there. That is my point. It is not in the academic calendar. Who is going to be providing the program? Nobody. Where is it? It is not anywhere to be found, Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I don't think it precludes any grads from Aurora College to apply if they want to. I think they noticed that there are not enough of them posted to apply. I want to let the Members know that we worked in the last year to put the students through the Graduate Employment Program and many of them were direct appointed. Those jobs were not advertised.

Mr. Chairman, I think our records show that the government is committed and it is incumbent on the students to work with us so that we could help them be placed into positions. There is a process and there are rules to follow. I understand that some of them are discouraged because the jobs are not on the website and we were simply trying to tell them that we are going to work with them within our system to maximize the opportunities that they have different paths than somebody walking into the Territories looking for nursing job might be faced with.

Second thing, CHN program, like I stated, is fully subscribed. The money was overspent so we were not able to bring any more grads into that. We are putting through the people that are involved in that program on their year two and we are going to continue to do that and see that program through. But CHN program has to be reviewed like every other HR program we have with respect to health and social services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. Next on my list is Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess if we are on page 8-21, I would like to take the opportunity to ask another question under program delivery details. Medical equipment under \$50,000 appears that the department is budgeting. It looks

like a consistent budget just under a million dollars. Would the Minister help me understand this particular amount? Is it money spent under the departmental sort of as a broad spending initiative or is it actually money that is filtered down into the authorities and spent, well, for running the authorities? Is it department money or is it money further transferred to the authorities? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, that item is for the department. It is for evergreening. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, that is fine. If it is just evergreening, are we talking about office equipment? It says medical supply. That is fine. I just wanted to make sure it wasn't...

Seeing how I have the mike, can the Minister provide me some, maybe, examples of what they would define as medical equipment under this evergreening process? Are we talking about beds? Are we talking about those specific programmings? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, we are not talking about office equipment. We are talking about medical equipment and it could be all kinds of medical things, but not beds, but small medical equipment.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that clarification. One of the criticisms I have heard from some vendors out there is that they are not able to compete in a fair and open manner. The reason I was asking is this authority money, they are pointing particularly at authorities to be specific but they are also referring to the headquarters potentially as being a problem in this particular area, where they are either sole sourcing or just going south and, of course, contracts are written in such a way that it really comes down to one vendor can only supply knowing full well that, of course, medical supplies that are a very specialized product whereas if you offer a Phillips product and only one vendor is being granted the rights to sell Phillips in the Northwest Territories, I guess that is a funny way of really writing a sole-source contract. Of course, the department, I am not in a position to say rightly or wrongly, but of course the department then refuses any other option from anyone trying to compete to provide a low-cost alternative.

Mr. Chairman, does the department have any types of substantiation that they can show that they are spending about a million dollars on northern vendors, giving them the opportunity? Are they able to demonstrate that these contracts for supplying medical equipment under \$50,000, whether they be competitive or sole-source? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Member brought up that issue with respect to Beaufort-Delta and we had explained and we

followed up on the Member's request. We follow all of the purchasing rules. We have to follow the contract guidelines. We have to follow the northern preference purchasing policies. We follow all of that. Mr. Chairman, I don't think that issue is alive. That was brought up way back when and I believe it was resolved. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, I did follow that particular issue up. In essence, take my word for it, really, was a short answer to the long letter or long reply. I am asking if the Minister is very confident that they view this and they are able to stand by it, then it should be no trouble providing some factual detail. That was the follow-up information that I asked for some time ago, perhaps maybe a month ago or more. I have yet to receive it. It is difficult getting back to people when they ask these questions and then you disappear for such a lengthy time or what the Minister says is basically they follow the rules. In essence, it shouldn't be that difficult to provide. Will the Minister provide that material and detail of those types of breakdown? The Department of Health has provided this information in the past, so I know it is viable. When Minister Miltenberger was Minister of Health at the time, I had requested that level of detail and the authorities quickly complied and certainly the department quickly complied with that request. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of a request that he has made that we haven't responded to on this topic. I know he brought it up about Beaufort-Delta and we followed up in writing. I could tell you, Mr. Chairman, that the purchasing of medical equipment has been done through public tender. There are some standardized, mostly public tender or standing offer agreements in one case, but mostly all public tender. It follows the guidelines. All the northern businesses are allowed to bid on them. There are some standards that the authorities require and a lot of purchasing is done through Stanton Territorial Health Authority, who also purchases for Sahtu as a contractual arrangement. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Can the Minister provide that breakdown to demonstrate that? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, we could do that.

MR. HAWKINS: Just changing subjects but in a somewhat related manner, the Minister has mentioned that, I guess it sounds as if it is the department or Stanton that purchases items on behalf of other authorities, does the Minister's office support any type of mark-up if it is Stanton, by way of example purchasing medical equipment and then selling it to an authority, do they support any type of mark-up on any particular product that is resold? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Of course not. What we are talking about is Stanton Territorial Health Authority

being a \$100 million organization, give or take a few. Sahtu is a \$10 million organization. They have been around for five or six years. So it is authorities working together and they do the buying activities with Stanton. So if you are going out to order, I don't know, birthing beds, it is better if Sahtu just buys one and if, say, Stanton bought ten and one of them is for Sahtu, they don't have to go through the whole new tendering and contract procedure. But I don't think Stanton is charging extra money to Sahtu to do that. It is just neighbours working together, which we should do more of.

MR. HAWKINS: So the Minister is confirming that there is no administration fee or service fee whatsoever, in any form or other name, hereafter being charged. Is that what she is saying clearly in the House? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Well, an administration fee is different than a mark-up. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Alright. Same question; let's just insert the work administration fee. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I don't know if there is an administration fee. I know that Stanton provides this service for Sahtu, so I could undertake to do that, but I am thinking that his meaning is does Sahtu have to pay more to get it through Stanton, and clearly that is not the case. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister almost said she would look into it. That is my question. Would the Minister confirm that if an authority is purchasing through Stanton, that they are not being charged a service fee, an administration fee or a mark-up fee? And feel free to find another like-minded semantic style of word to replace administration fee or service fee, but a fee is a fee in some form or another and I am curious, are they charging them just to help bulk purchasing or is there a hidden cost there somewhere that is being passed through to the authorities. If she would do some research and confirm that, it would be appreciated. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I don't know where the Member is going with this; I don't know what his point is. The Sahtu Health Authority gets... They have their budget to run programs. There is some cross-work that happens between the authorities. Stanton might ask Sahtu to pay for some of the staffing time, but I would like to know what the Member is getting at. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. Time is expended for this question, but I could put you back on the list, if you wish, Mr. Hawkins. Next on the list is Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow up with some questions that my colleague Mr. Ramsay asked and the responses that the Minister provided. In listening to the dialogue between the two of them, I have to say I

was just a little bit confused as to which program was being talked about. Mr. Ramsay mentioned the Community Health Program at Aurora College, and I think he was referring to the Introduction to Advanced Practice, which isn't called the CHN program, so my question to the Minister is: in responding to my colleagues' questions, were you referring to the IAP when you indicated that it is fully subscribed or were you referring to the CHN Development Program, which isn't an Aurora College program, when you said it is fully subscribed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was talking about CHN program, which the Member for Kam Lake was referring to. I am not sure if he was referring to that as an Aurora College program but I was speaking of it in the context of overall human resource training programs for health and social services assistance. CHN program is fully subscribed, as the Member is aware because I have stated that a number of times. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: It just gets more and more confusing all the time. Aurora College does not deliver Community Health Nurse Development Program. It is not a program run by Aurora College, it is a program that is funded by the Department of Health and Social Services through the Department of Human Resources, if that is the program that she is referring to. Can she confirm that that is the program she is referring to or is she referring to a different program? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. I believe the Minister did confirm that she was referring to that one, but, Minister Lee, for clarification please.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I did say I was referring to Community Health Nurse Development Program and I don't believe we suggested that that was being delivered out of Aurora College. I would not question the Member's knowledge of that area, I was simply answering the MLA for Kam Lake.

MR. ABERNETHY: So we are talking about the Community Health Nurse Development Program that is delivered by the Department of Human Resources on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services. The Minister has said that this program is fully subscribed and, quite frankly, I don't understand that, because I asked questions in the House in October, I sent letters to the Minister and that program, from what I understand in responses provided to me by the Minister, one person enrolled, and that person might even have graduated by now, and they indicated that there probably isn't going to be an intake for 2011-2012. So quite frankly, I don't understand fully subscribed, I don't get it, so I am wondering if the Minister can

give me some information on what or how she defines fully subscribed. This has a budget of nearly half a million dollars, this section, and if there is nobody enrolled, then how are they spending the money? Can we expect an intake in 2011-2012? Are we going to see this program utilized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HON. SANDY LEE: We have provided this info as a response to lots of questions that the Member has raised. He is right; he has raised this before. This program is oversubscribed; it went way beyond its budget. We have one person in there and we are spending all the money that we have available in that budget and we are not able to take in new people unless we come with new money, which is the reason why we need to review this as we need to review the Nurse Practitioner Program and nursing programs. We need to look at all the demands on educational programs for health and social services staffing and we need to set our priorities. There are new areas that we haven't been training, like home care programming and counselling programming and other things. This is something we need to look at as a Legislature and, as I stated earlier, I need to come and talk to the Standing Committee on Social Programs about what the demands are and how do we go forward within the limited resources we have. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: All these questions started when it came up about some of the grad placements and our true need, our true area of focus here, is we need to get nurses into community health centres. Nobody could deny that. We've got continual turnover of locums, we've got continual turnover of nurses in there and we need to find solutions and solutions to train Northerners for northern jobs.

The Community Health Nurse Development Program is a great program that puts indigenous Aboriginal and non-Aboriginals in community health centres with the training and the skill they need to be competent and professional. I find it offensive that the Minister tells me that one position expends the entire budget for that division. In '11-12 that person, I believe, is actually graduating for '11-12, so I'm kind of offended that there's going to be no intake for '11-12. The money should be there, it should be for the program, we should be out pursuing Northerners to take that training. So quite frankly, I don't understand anything the Minister is saying. It doesn't make any sense to me whatsoever. It seems completely, you know, devoid of sense.

I think the department needs to take a better look at this Community Health Nurse Development Program in light of the fact that we've got so many grads coming our way. We have got so many grads and we have so much need in the communities and here's a program that's doing it. Unfortunately, I

also know that the department has cancelled the Community Health Nurse Development Program bursary, which was an incentive for people to go into the program. So they've cancelled the bursary that would encourage people to go into the program and then they claim they're over-expended on the program and they're only running one person through it doesn't make any sense. I'd defy any accountant in the world to look at this and make any sense of it. It's crazy.

Now I'm going to come back to the Introduction to Advanced Practice. That's the one that doesn't appear in the catalogue at Aurora College. That's the one that I believe Mr. Ramsay was talking about, and I also find it completely insane that our enrolment is going down in there because a lot of the people we put through there were short-term placements and they leave. So I know there's a need, I've heard people say there's a need, I know that the students at Aurora College want to take the program because the Introduction to Advanced Practice gives them some skills that will be valuable and assist them in their future careers, but I also do know that once upon a time we used to ask our staff to take that program, especially our staff in the community health centres and I know we're not asking them to do that anymore.

So the reason the enrolment is down is because we're not requiring it anymore and that, to me, is a concern that everybody who lives in a community should have. Those people that live in the communities want to be sure that those nurses are competent and professional and, yes, they are, but that skill set they get from advanced practice introduction gives them suturing skills and gives them skills they don't get through their normal schooling practice. So let's not get rid of the Introduction to Advanced Practice. I think it's the wrong direction, I think it's a mistake and anybody who thinks that taking away that training is going to be good for the people of the Northwest Territories because our enrolments are down, they're down because of the way we're doing business, not because the actual need is down. I think the department needs to seriously look at these things. It's crazy to be taking away the programs that work, add value and put people in our communities.

I'd like to see a briefing note on how they justify this, I want to see a briefing note on how they justify the spending on the Community Health Nurse Development Program because, quite frankly, one person does not make a program. The program was designed to run four or five. How one person has consumed the whole budget screams mismanagement to me, mismanagement by the department. One person for the \$400,000 budget is crazy. It's crazy.

Our communities are more important than this. We need to make sure they have competent, qualified

professionals in there doing the work and this program is the one that's going to help them and it's going to put Northerners in there. I'm so tired, tired, of putting Southerners in these jobs when we have Northerners who with just a little bit of support could do this work. So stop making excuses and stop talking about lowly subscribed when your department mismanaged the funds and allowed one person to consume an entire budget. Fix it, make it run and go and let's get Northerners back into these jobs. I mean, everything that is being said doesn't make sense, Mr. Chair. It's crazy.

HON. SANDY LEE: The MLA for Yellowknife Centre used the word "mismanagement" on Friday and I believe that's the reason why he apologized today. I don't know for sure. So I would like the Member for Great Slave to reconsider what he said.

As the Member knows, because that's his background, and I understand -- well, he lets us know that's his background -- the CHN program is run by Human Resources, so if he's suggesting somebody mismanaged, perhaps the Minister of HR should answer to that. I am not disagreeing with the Member that we need to review this, but it is quite something else to say I don't believe anything you say and you're mismanaging. That's not fair to the staff.

I said earlier that we need to look at it and I'm sure the Member is interested in that because I know he's interested in health and social services, and I'm telling you that as we go forward there are lots of demands for HR needs in helping social services. We need to train our home care workers, because we want to expand our program. We need to expand counselling services, so there's a need for training in that. We've been training nurses, northern nurses, which has been hugely successful, but in the next three years we're going to get 70 to 80 nurses. So we need to look at our Human Resource Training Program and the Member being a Member of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, he'd have lots to add to that.

So, Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if I could do anything more if the Members don't want to accept what we are saying, but I want to offer again that it is high time for us to look at who we are training, how we are training, how we are using Aurora College services, how we could work together between Health and Social Services and Education, and I'm committed to coming back to the committee with the information in hand and make decisions together about how we move forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. The time is up for that questioner; I've put you back on the list. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A few other things. I just wanted to follow up and all I'm looking for is a short, concise answer from the Minister. What assurances have we got that the

Graduate Placement Program will be around in the following year? I know the letter stated it's available this year, the funding is there. What about next year and it's 65 grads in the next three years, not 70 to 80? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're speaking about this year's budget. We're involved for '11 and '12. I can't speak for future governments and future plans and that's one more reason why we need to review this program. I mean, review the training needs and how Department of Health and Social Services system needs for trained people marry up with what we are doing in Aurora College in all of its branches and how HR works with us.

I think Members would agree we need to look at how we go forward. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I guess it's okay for the Minister to talk about the future, but I guess in our questions we can't. I appreciate and understand that and I'll move on to my next question.

I know my colleague Mr. Abernethy was talking about the incentives being taken away for community health nurses and I'd like to ask the Minister why aren't we providing more incentives and encouraging northern residents to stay and live in the smaller communities. It's got to be cheaper than locum nurses, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the Minister why are we providing incentives and encouraging folks to get into that program. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, we do, and that program was highly successful, a lot of people went into it, it was oversubscribed, we never have enough money to meet the demands of everyone. It is oversubscribed now and we have an obligation to deliver our programs with the money we have. We're not allowed to just oversubscribe. So we are using the money we have now and we do support our community people to go get trained. There are all kinds of programs for that. So, Mr. Chairman, I don't think there's any question about that. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I just don't see myself making any progress on this so I'll give up at that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Next on my list is Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and for the record the Minister is right; I shouldn't be referring to mismanagement, and also for the record I have nothing but respect for the staff and employees of the GNWT, in particular in health care, social services. I think they have some of the hardest work out there and I have nothing but respect for them and if what I have said has

offended them in any way, I apologize and I withdraw that.

Having said that, one person in a program that costs \$400,000 means something didn't happen correctly and ultimately the Minister is responsible for that and the Minister needs to explain that. She needs to explain how a \$400,000 program that was designed to run four or five people in it with one person managed to get over budget. Ultimately she's responsible for that. Ultimately we have to hold her to account for that. Ultimately we need to see this program running.

It's unfortunate what happened yesterday. You know, last fiscal year when they managed to spend all this money, when the Minister's department managed to spend all this money on one person, but it's 2011-2012 we're talking about; 2011-2012. Where's the budget for 2011-2012 if all the people who finished this program... There's nobody in it. Where's the money? What are they using the money for? How are they using the money to train our Northerners for northern jobs? How come there's no intake? That's what I want to know and it doesn't make any sense that we aren't doing these things. I want to see Northerners in northern jobs. That's what this money was supposed to be for.

I apologize for accusing anybody of mismanagement. I respect the staff. If I've offended them, I withdraw that. But come on. Let's find out what's happening with this money. Let's find out how we're using it. Let's put it to the use that was intended. You can always defer and start talking about all of the other areas we need to do training. What area costs us the most money? What do we hear about most in the communities when we go out there? We hear about how come there's no permanent nurses? How come there's no consistency of care? It's nurses.

How are we spending the \$400,000-plus on this program to make sure that we get them in there? It used to work. It used to be a great program. Why does there appear to be no interest in it anymore?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member knows we've had lots of success in training and supporting our northern workforce in the health and social services system. The Member was part of that when he worked in the system. We've had lots of success. I don't think anybody here is questioning the need and achievements in that area.

I'd be happy to provide him with more information. As the Member knows, the CHN program is administered by HR, so I'd be happy to work with the HR Minister and get back to the Member on the detailed information. I believe this has been brought up and we have given the Member information on that. Once again I'd like to offer to the Members on

the other side that we do need to review what we are doing with our training program and maximize our dollars.

MR. ABERNETHY: I'd like it if we could share that information with all my colleagues.

Just one last thing, just a reminder: yes, it may be delivered by HR, but the people who are making the decisions on the budget are sitting at that table. The Minister is responsible for this budget, she's the one who's making decisions on the budget, HR is delivering a program that this Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for and makes the final signing off on all budget lines. We can involve HR, they are administering the program, but ultimately no matter how you look at it, the Minister of health is accountable. It's her budget line, not HR's.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. Just a comment there. I have nobody else on my list. Committee, I'll remind you we're on page 8-21, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, operations expenditure summary, \$188.658 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Returning to page 8-29, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community health programs, operations expenditure summary, \$87.631 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 8-30, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community health programs, grants and contributions, contributions. Agreed? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question under the prevention and promotion paragraph on page 8-30. There's a huge increase in the money going to authorities and agencies from the revised estimates from 2010-2011 to the main estimates for 2011-2012; about \$600,000. Could I get an explanation of what that's for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's part of our Strategic Initiatives committee Building Our Future investments and Healthy Choices Framework and \$254,000, for a total of \$500,000. It will be sent to Beaufort-Delta and Dehcho.

MS. BISARO: I'm sorry, I need clarification on those numbers. I heard \$250,000 for a total of \$500,000. Could I get the other half of the \$500,000, please?

HON. SANDY LEE: It's a \$500,000 increase; \$250,000 going to Beaufort-Delta Health and Social

Services Authority and \$246,000 to Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority.

MS. BISARO: Thanks for the explanation. I did have a question under children services as well. Maybe it's not so much a question as a comment. I look at these numbers and we spend almost \$7.7 million on foster care and about \$3.6 million on residential care, yet we spend \$858,000 on intervention and protective services. I guess that's apprehensions. If we look at the paragraph below we spend some \$900,000 on prevention and promotion. It seems to me that we've got these numbers in the wrong place. I know it costs money to put children into foster care but it goes to the recommendations from the Child and Family Services Act review, it goes to statements that have been made by Members more often than not in this House and on this side of the House.

Prevention is paramount. If we can put programs in place, if we can work on prevention, if we can work on creating healthy children at an early age from zero to six it's going to reap huge rewards as we go down the line. In terms of foster care, if we can put in place the recommendations that are in the Child and Family Services Act review we will not need to put children in foster care and that \$7.7 million amount is going to be reduced significantly. I know it's going to take time, but again we need to be putting more money into prevention, into dealing with children at a really early age. I don't see that in here and it dismays me.

HON. SANDY LEE: I didn't hear a question there. I take the Member's comment and I don't believe we disagree with that finding and suggestion made in the CFSA report.

MS. BISARO: I appreciate that the Minister and the department don't disagree with my point of view but, unfortunately, there's no indication on the part of the department that money is going to be attached to this particular philosophy. That is a large concern. Thank you. No question there either.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Although there's no question, I'll still go to the Minister to see if she has any sort of response.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, it's true that there's no new money in this budget but our response is that we will put it through the next business plan cycle, which is the way financial business is done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of questions here. I'm just wondering, a couple of years back we had talked about a campaign to curb alcohol abuse. As anybody knows, alcohol is the biggest problem that we have out there, the biggest social ill that we have. We had talked about the department coming up with a campaign much like the Don't Be a Butthead

campaign to try to target alcohol and the ravages that it has on our communities. I'm just wondering where that's at in the department's plans or if there's any money in this budget for that type of campaign.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be part of health promotion.

MR. RAMSAY: Could the Minister elaborate on that? Are we going to come up with a new campaign? What is the strategy that the department has to prevent alcohol abuse in the Northwest Territories? It's a huge problem. What are we doing about it?

HON. SANDY LEE: As I recall, I believe we were talking about a campaign similar to Don't Be a Butthead and there were some suggestions such as Don't Be a Bottleneck or something like that. That was about two budget cycles ago. We were working on more investment money under Strategic Initiatives committees, but as the Member knows and the Legislature is aware, we've had to curb the money available under those initiatives. So the work that we do on addictions and dangers of alcohol abuse and such is done as part of our everyday business. We were not able to launch a whole new program similar to Don't Be a Butthead because we were not able to get that extra funding under Strategic Initiative committees because we had to reduce that as a government. It's not just a department but government-wide, as the Member is aware.

MR. RAMSAY: I think that's some work that we have to continue on and that should take priority going down the road, that's for sure. Like I said, alcohol is the biggest scourge that's out there.

The other question that I have, I just wanted to ask the Minister whether or not the Department of Health and Social Services, under prevention, promotion, and health awareness, were you consulted with prior to the Department of Finance making a decision to raise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, of course we were.

MR. RAMSAY: Maybe could the Minister elaborate a little bit on what the stance of the department was in increasing alcohol and tobacco taxes and whether or not that might have a negative impact on families around the Northwest Territories? Because as I'm sure I've mentioned before, the people who are addicted to alcohol and tobacco are going to get their alcohol and tobacco no matter how much it costs, and the people who are going to pay the price are the kids in that home and the families in the small communities who are struggling to get by as it is. If you increase costs for alcohol and tobacco, I think it's a perverse effect

you're having on families around this Territory. I'd like to hear what the department had to say about that.

HON. SANDY LEE: I don't think I could counter that. I think that's something that could be argued. All sin taxes we have to weigh the balance between providing a disincentive by raising the taxes, but we are aware that those who are severely addicted will get those items no matter what, against their self-interest and the well-being of themselves and the families around them. The flip side of that coin is if even without taxes being raised, probably those other people who because of their addiction issues do not spend money where they should be, on their families, anyway. I don't think there's any right or wrong answer to that.

Going back to your original question, the deputy ministers are on the steering committee that review those implications and the Ministers discuss and consider all those impacts as well.

MR. RAMSAY: I'm just wondering whether or not the department did any analysis on the increase to taxes on alcohol and tobacco and if the Minister could share that analysis with the committee.

HON. SANDY LEE: I could provide the Member with what we have in the department on that topic.

MR. RAMSAY: Just one other thing. I'm just wondering if we've ever given any consideration to taking the tax that's derived from cigarettes and alcohol in the Territory and instead of putting it into general revenue, earmarking it for activities under prevention and promotion. Maybe we should be identifying those dollars and using them in the right way.

HON. SANDY LEE: As long as I've been here, for 12 years, that issue has come up. I believe that suggestion has come up very regularly and it's a decision that the Minister of Finance and government as a whole has to make in coming up and directing that taxation and setting up a direct program that flows from that. There are pros and cons in that, I believe. But it would not be our department's decision but a government decision.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Next on my list, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under prevention and promotion I notice a significant increase, about \$541,000 to that area. I'm wondering if I can get a breakout of how there are six subjects listed for those dollars: early childhood development, homelessness, family violence, tobacco, in-house respite services and health promotion activities. Is it possible to break those dollars out by those six activities, the additional \$541,000 we're putting into those activities? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that money we envision creating four family home visitors centres, two in the Deh Cho and two in Beau-Del. This is for the development and delivery of early intervention initiatives which will promote the development of a strength-based, solution-focused, family-centred delivery of support services. Specifically trained support workers who will work with families to optimize the home environment for the health and physical, mental and emotional well-being of children and families. This initiative is similar to the current Healthy Families Program model, which focuses on the age group of birth to five years. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I just want to say I'm very pleased to see that modest increase. It's more than doubling of the budget to date but, obviously, that budget to date I see as quite inadequate. I want to compliment the department on getting that commitment and allocation in there. Are these internal dollars or is the source of these dollars federal? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: It's government money. It's not federal funding. It's part of the strategic initiative investment and Building our Future. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you to the Minister for those remarks, Mr. Chairman, and kudos on that.

I have one other question on the additional \$960,000 put into community services. On the next page, still under this budget item, I just wondered if I can get a little more information on how those dollars are being allocated within the social work, mental health and addiction workers; if there's a focus in one particular area or another with those dollars. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: We believe it's just a Collective Agreement increase. There is no enhancement in the programming. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 8-31, non-government organizations residential care, the...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. We're not on page 8-31. Let's conclude and then I'll come back to you for 8-31. We're on page 8-30. Any more questions on 8-30? We're on Health and Social Services, activity summary, community health programs, grants and contributions, contributions. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Now we'll move to 8-31. Sorry, Mr. Beaulieu. I just wanted to make sure we were on the right page. Next on my list, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is all one section and the previous question was just on 8-31. Okay. Anyway, my question is still the same. On page 8-31, the non-government organization residential care, the drug and alcohol programs and services related to addictions. There is a slight increase there and also there are increases for support workers, for addictions workers and so on. My question is: is the department making any sort of shift towards the addiction works on the land? That seems to be a real, real big item for the small communities. It's pretty well a feeling among the addictions workers there that that would be something that might work best of all. A lot of people actually talk about that, and this is, I guess, the area where there could be huge benefits to it.

I had talked about this previously and made a Member's statement. I talked about it maybe under another section, but here seems to be the appropriate time to maybe have the department look at making a shift away from what they're doing and then putting more money into what they are doing and doing something different that will work, because what they're doing really isn't showing results. I'm not sure if the department keeps results on successes, like, for example, in treatment centres, people that go to treatment centres, like, are they successful and what determines success. Is it being sober for five years? Is it one year? Is it life and how do they know? I mean, all of those things, right? It's a difficult thing to determine. What the people are seeing is that soon after the types of residential treatment, I suppose, that's being offered to people in the small communities, they're back to practising alcohol use again. I'm curious, I guess, in this area if there would be actually a shift away from the standard and into something that the communities want. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I apologize for cutting you off there; 8-30 and 8-31 are one section, so I apologize for that.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not part of the budget we have here, but the Member has raised that before and I committed to him last week that we will revisit that. It would take major changes, actually, because most of this money is already... That \$2.931 million, most of it is going to, well, all of it is going to Nats'ejee Keh, Salvation Army and Tree of Peace. That's the budget. If we want to use that money to do something different, it would take, you know, changes in doing things, but I think we need to look at that. I've committed to the Member that we will do that, and we need to do that with an eye towards the next business plan.

MR. BEAULIEU: That's good, Mr. Chairman. This is what I had the idea that it was going to provide service in those areas, places that were just

mentioned by the Minister, and what happens in that case is the majority of that treatment and that care is provided to people, and I recognize that people from all the small communities also end up here in Yellowknife, but it is provided to the folks, most of the folks here in YK.

There's really nothing more that I can add other than it's good to see that if they're going to look at something like this in the future to shift away from this type of care that they have in place now, that doesn't really seem to be effective to maybe trying something different at the community level, I think that would have many positive aspects to it, even right into the economy of a small community in the sense of jobs and retaining some of the money there, having them deal with their own addiction issues in the community and trying to address those at the community level. Like I said, it appears as though on-the-land treatment is something that many of the Aboriginal MLAs in here have been asking for and something that I think the department has to really take a serious look at. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, we need to look at that. I have committed to look at that. It will take a different way of thinking to be able to re-profile enough money to do it territorial-wide. It is really about closing the gap in the spectrum of services available. We have residential programming. We send people away. We have staff that work in the communities. But I take the Member's point that we don't have enough options for communities to tap into to do on-the-land healing programs. We do fund them, but it's on an ad hoc basis and a project-by-project basis and whether we could get some money from the feds or some other... It is sort of like we look for wherever we could find it, but I believe what the Member is saying is that we have to develop that as a program with base funding and stable funding and program guidelines. It is something that I have committed to look at it and we will look at it in the next cycle. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. We are on Health and Social Services, activity summary, community health programs, grants and contributions, total \$69.2 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. We are moving on to page 8-32 and Health and Social Services, information item, community health programs, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We will move along to page 8-33, which is also an information item, Health and Social Services, details of funding allocated to health and social services authorities.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We are moving along to page 8-34, also an information item, Health and Social Services, lease commitments - infrastructure.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Page 8-35, Health and Social Services. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure there is a logical explanation. Is there no charge to the office base in Deninu K'ue?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: I am going to have to ask Mr. Elkin to give that information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Mr. Elkin.

MR. ELKIN: Mr. Chairman, the information the chart reflects are current leases and any commitments. The lease for that would come up and we had to renegotiate it, so the chart does not reflect any future commitments because there is no lease for next year yet. It will expire at the end of this year, what they renegotiate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Page 8-35, Health and Social Services, information item, lease commitments - infrastructure.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We are moving on to page 8-36, Health and Social Services, information item, work performed on behalf of others. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, on the non-insured health benefits, we have almost \$10 million for work performed on behalf of others. That is, I think, a Health Canada funding provided to First Nations and Inuit residents that are not covered under a hospital or a medical care program. My understanding from this is that the department delivers a program. So far, in the inquiries that have come from my constituents in the communities, I have generally been sending them to the website, because other than filling out the applications myself, sending them to a website asking them to pull the documentation off the website and then proceed with any applications on their own. Does the department, HSS, put any resources into supporting individuals who are trying to apply for NIHB? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister why?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the DM to elaborate. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Ms. Meade.

MS. MEADE: Mr. Chairman, if I understand your question, you are asking if we put additional money into supporting people to access NIHB benefits and we would not do that. Their contact is with NIHB. These are the ones that we administer on their behalf. For example, the dental and some of those, and it is our costs above some of the medical travel and the lodge on the non-insured benefits. If you're asking do we put additional resources for people to be able to get assistance for NIHB, we don't. We certainly would provide them the information and contact numbers and things like that, but we don't put extra resources into that.

We do have four positions in Inuvik, but those are totally funded by NIHB to administer the program on their behalf. So there are staff that are funded fully through NIHB.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Meade. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't talking about financial resources; I was referring to human resources. When this department administers these programs under work performed on behalf of others with transitional health funding contribution agreements or Nats'ejee K'eh pan-territorial social marketing project, I am asking if there is actually human resources there to support individuals to apply. Because I think that it would be good if everybody maybe had a computer or was able to go to the website, pull it up, fill out the information on their own, sign it and send it off and so on. That is not exactly the way things work in small communities. I kind of wondered about that because a lot of my questions have been simply referring me to a website. Again, aside from the four people in Inuvik, which I am fine with if their work extends beyond Inuvik and into all of the communities to provide support for individuals that need to apply for this program, understand the program, understand what benefits they have under the program as First Nations and Inuit residents, that is good. Now, aside from the four people in Inuvik, if they don't do anything other than just sit in an office in Inuvik and administer this program from behind a desk there, is there anyone else that can support people for applying for this program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, the four people that are located in Inuvik help our residents to weave through the NIHB program and some of our staff help with that too. Those four minimum that we could get, I think the Member referred to pan-territorial social marketing project later in the page or did I read that wrong? They are the four. They just strictly respond to our residents' questions and the application process for the programs under NIHB. I'm sorry; I probably didn't answer the question correctly. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, the situation is that I have people coming to me, whether it be dental, eye care, or whatever it is, and saying, where am I going to get support, who is going to pay for this, and stuff like that. I am going back to the department. The department is referring me to a website. I had one situation where I referred an individual to the local nurse and then the situation seemed to have dissolved itself. That may be the health centre is supporting individuals, helping them apply for benefits under the Non-Insured Health Benefits, so if that is the case, fine, that way I just know where to direct people.

A lot of people ask about this and so often I am directing them to a website. Even people who are working for the government, who we would have to assume have at least a minimum of grade 12 to be working for the government are having difficulties getting through the system to apply for programs. So you can imagine that somebody that has no schooling may have even more difficulty, having no computer would have more difficulties, and so some individuals where you actually have to go into the website, print off the application forms and so on and then send them to individuals too. So I am saying we have \$10 million here, we don't want to burn it up in administration, I recognize that, but some sort of place where an individual can go, almost similar to a single-service window, I think that is now through the Sustainability and Rural and Remote Communities, maybe that type of individual in a small community can assist people with this, but it is just kind of left up to the individuals, I find. I am not sure but maybe if the program gets fully subscribed, I don't know, at one time the actual... Two years ago the actuals were higher than what is budgeted today, so obviously the program is being used. I am wondering if there is a way that they could provide some support for individuals who apply for what they should be getting under this program or benefit.

HON. SANDY LEE: To get more assistance or a single-window approach is something that we would have to approach the federal government on because it is their program. But in the short term and for our own purpose, I do understand what the Member is saying and I think that what I could do is see if we could make the names or the number of Non-Insured Health Benefits funded people in Inuvik available so that people could call there. I do believe that our nurses and our health care staff in our regional offices do help people wade through that. So in the website, when we give the website page, it is usually to just give a general information about what is covered and what is not, and I do appreciate that not everybody benefits from that kind of medium. People need to get that support in other ways too, so we will see what we can do there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. Mr. Beaulieu. We are on page 8-36, Health and Social Services, information item, work performed on behalf of others. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Agreed. Page 8-37, Health and Social Services, information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued, Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Agreed. Page 8-38, Health and Social Services, information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Agreed. Page 8-39, Health and Social Services, information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Agreed. Page 8-40, Health and Social Services, information item, work performed on behalf of others, continued. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Agreed. Committee, that concludes that section. Let us turn back to 8-7, which is on page 8-7. Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 38-16(5):
DEFER CONSIDERATION OF THE
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES,
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee defer consideration of the department summary for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): The motion is on the floor and the motion is being distributed. Let's wait until it's distributed. Motion is on the floor. The Motion has been distributed. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Question has been called.

---Carried

We will defer further consideration of Health and Social Services until another time.

Thank you, Minister Lee. If I can please get the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses out, and thank you to the witnesses for being here today.

Before we move on to the next department we're going to take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'll bring the committee back to order. I'll go to Minister Lafferty for his opening comments.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the 2011-2012 main estimates for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

The work of the department is guided by the priorities of the 16th Assembly, specifically healthy educated people in a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices.

The proposed 2011-2012 main estimates for Education, Culture and Employment total \$285.895 million. This is an increase of 4.9 percent over previous year's main estimates.

Education and Culture

Early Childhood Development

Ensuring the success of all children and students is a cornerstone of our education system. Under the Healthy Choices Framework, in 2010-2011 the department is leading in the review of the Early Childhood Development Framework for Action to identify how we can better support early learning.

School System

At the school level, Aboriginal Student Achievement, or ASA, Initiative aims to improve Aboriginal student success across the education system to eliminate the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. In 2011-2012, a literacy initiative will be implemented in the schools.

The department will provide funding so five additional communities, can extend school library hours and resources to serve as community libraries. The new community literacy coordinator position will offer training and support to staff in these new libraries.

Mr. Chairman, the mandatory teacher orientation and the promotional campaign to raise parents' awareness of habits that support students' success will continue. Overall funding will be increased by \$500,000 in 2011-2012 to support the \$1.8 million cost of planned activities under the ASA initiative.

Culture and Heritage

Ensuring that survival and revitalization of our official languages and promoting arts and culture in all forms of expression provide a foundation for learning, personal growth and community vitality for the future of our Territory.

In 2011-2012, an additional \$200,000 will be used to expand exhibits and collections at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. Support to individuals, organizations and projects that showcase the arts will continue as this government

has increased support for the arts by \$1.4 million since taking office.

Official Languages

In fiscal year 2011-2012, \$300,000 will support expansion of the annual Aboriginal Languages Summer Institute launched this past summer. The 2011 summer institute will include a repeat offering of two foundation courses and one other course from the University of Victoria certificate program in Aboriginal Language Revitalization.

The department will establish a new administrative structure, costing \$812,000 in 2011-2012, for the delivery of French language services across the GNWT, thereby meeting government obligations under the Official Languages Act, in line with court orders.

Advanced Education and Careers

Adult and Postsecondary Education

A key department goal is to ensure every adult in the NWT can acquire the skills, knowledge and abilities necessary to access social and economic opportunities.

In fiscal year 2011-2012, an additional \$200,000 will go to Aurora College for a student wellness coordinator position in each campus and \$300,000 will ensure expanded delivery of the community-based Teacher Education Program in the South Slave.

Apprenticeship Employment Development

In 2011-2012, the department will implement the NWT Labour Force Development Framework developed with the NWT stakeholders. The framework outlines a common vision, principles and goals to develop a strong northern workforce.

The department will also invest \$925,000 in 2011-2012 to support employment in small and remote communities by way of wage subsidies to employers.

Income Security

Income security programs assist the most vulnerable among us to meet their basic needs and achieve greater self-reliance. In 2011-2012, the income security delivery model will be reviewed. We are also investing \$150,000 to conduct an independent review of the student financial assistance benefits to determine the extent to which benefits could be improved.

In response to the rising demand for income assistance as we recover from the world-wide economic downturn and are progressing slowly, \$1.4 million will go to increase regional budgets for income assistance. Another \$351,000 will ensure the retention of positions to help address the rising income assistance caseload.

Concluding Comments

The job of the department is to support residents in reaching their education, training and employment goals, and in making positive choices for themselves and their family. In this way, residents are encouraged to be as self-reliant as possible and develop a strong identity based on their culture and heritage. Determining the levels of support to help Northerners with all their goals is a challenge that requires constant review. Based on this Assembly's vision and goals, we believe we are making the best investment for the people within our fiscal reality.

I will be pleased to answer any questions that the Members may have at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Before I go to general comments from the Members, would you like to bring witnesses into the House,

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that the Minister can bring witnesses into the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Sergeant-at-Arms, can I please get you to escort the witnesses into the House?

Thank you. Minister, would you like to introduce your witnesses to the House, please.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Dan Daniels, the deputy minister of ECE; and Paul Devitt, director of strategic and business services. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does committee agree that we go through general comments? Do the Members wish to make them before going to the Minister to have him to respond to all of them or would Members prefer that he respond to each one?

To go through and have the Minister answer all of them at once, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Then that's what we'll do. Alright, general comments, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. General comments regarding Education, Culture and Employment for the early childhood development. I'm seeing a lot of success in the communities that I represent, in that the funding I hope does not get cut in regard to supplying of the breakfast program that they have there in the school.

The school system, I'll start off with Tuk. We have teachers' housing that's coming up. The funding has run out to supply per door, \$20,000 per door

per unit. We have five units. So it's going to cause havoc on the teachers up in Tuk if we don't get our agreement signed, which we desperately need to keep good teachers in the community. That has to be looked at.

We have not enough teachers. We have overcrowding in grade 10 in the community and we should get some more help, if that's possible. I want the Minister to be taking these. I'm not going to go back to ECE, I'm going to come here and this is where it should be done, because all the time I always get referred back to ECE in the community in the Beaufort-Delta and nothing happens.

The high school in Sachs Harbour, that's another thing we're failing, Mr. Minister, in regard to the students up in Sachs Harbour. From grade 10, 11 and 12 the kids are going into Inuvik and they're feeling uncomfortable. Half the time there's not a safe place to stay so they come back into the community. We have to have shelter for them in a house, or a boarding house run by the department. The students there that were failing over the last two years now, three years we're going on, the kids are having to come back in again and have to be re-educated just to get their upgrading to go to further courses in Aurora College. That's not right.

The other communities, Paulatuk, we're good there, but any funding for Paulatuk is just the retrofitting in regard to some retrofits into the school. I know I've been saying this the last three years. Also in Tuk, I mean, I'm looking at my big extension that I've been trying to work with and it's probably going to have to come back to the next government to get the shop and the science lab and all that into the community. Getting back to Paulatuk, there should be some retrofits done to the community school. I've been there and the windows you can feel the draft coming in and the students are getting sick, which is not good.

The Adult Education Program is really needed in the community of Tuk. The community has no teacher, they have a student there and last year Tuk's Aurora College had the most students all across the whole Northwest Territories. So we should try and get a teacher in the community as soon as possible.

Income security, again, we should have some petitions coming in in regard to getting the income support cheques given to the Northern Store or to the Co-op or to the Stanton Store. The monies that are given to the families are not being utilized for food; they're being utilized for alcohol and drugs. That has to stop. I'm told it's up to the community and the hamlet council to bring that forward to give to the Minister to make the changes. The people with ECE on income support, the monies, it's just not there. The people are going hungry on the third week and it's a really sad situation. There's no work up in the communities and it's tough. I was talking

to an elder in the community of Tuk, they said they were spending \$350 on gas to go out hunting and he said they come back skunked sometimes, and they see caribou coming in that's not in the boundary and they still won't hunt because they're keeping the boundary lines. So I think there should be some way that we could try to work together in regard to getting extra gas money to help these people in the community.

With education in the communities, we're failing. This has got to be picked up. I know the Minister is working hard with the education system with what they've got, but we've got to try to find more ways to get these kids at the proper education level where we're not social passing. You've got kids in grade 11 with a grade 6 reading level. That's not right and we've got to work together to get this done. I really want to work with his office in regard to making something happen for the students that are falling through the cracks.

I'll have more questions on the page-by-page, but thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Next on my list is Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to reflect on some of the issues I've been working on and have been raising with the Minister over time and I think the most recent was in my Member's statement today where I was talking about the Bompus Elementary playground and the efforts of the parents group to raise funds for it. I think the department really went out of their way when they assisted Fort Liard enough to extend that over to Fort Simpson and do what they can there to replace that playground, because it is pretty sad when I think this is almost the second year for those children playing out there and there's hardly any playground equipment. It goes a long way to health and wellness and happiness of the children when we look at that, Mr. Chair.

The second biggest issue I've been faced with now is the amount of Wrigley high school students that are not successful in Fort Simpson. I really think that we have to do a good review or some kind of assessment just to see what's going on there, because our students are running into trouble and we're going to have to support them, Mr. Chair. So we've got to review that situation and we've got to ask the Dehcho Divisional Educational Council to get into Wrigley to meet with the parents and look at some solutions and work with the parents to see if there's a better way to do it, because they are concerned.

Like I said, I think it was over 12 students in the past three years and as far as I'm aware there's only two successful students that were able to maintain themselves in the student residence that's there. So we've got to really look at that situation, come up with some alternatives. We cannot deny

them educational opportunity. The divisional education council has taken the position that, okay, if they're not successful in this residence, then we're not paying for the students anywhere else, and like my colleague just indicated, our smaller communities have low to little income and paying on their own for students to get to a different community is very hard. We've really got to have a look at that.

I'm pleased to see that there's money in the budget this year to do the Student Financial Assistance review. Over time I get contacted lots, I get students inquiring, can we have a better rate, is there a better way to support the students in school. I don't know, maybe the Minister can write this one down, but I think the biggest little change that you can do is pay for even their rent, because right now their rent has got to come out of their student financial assistance and I think it's almost, like, 25 percent of their contribution agreement when we include rent, and probably higher in some other institutions, even if they go down south. So that's something that we should try to consider. I know at a place like Aurora College it would be easily done, because it's local and Aurora College is virtually government, so rent can be easily monitored, but when they're going down south to other institutions it will be a little bit harder. That's something that doing that one little, small change I think will go a long ways.

Another issue that I found particularly hard this year was the seniors' home heating subsidy and having non-working children that stay with the elder. Some of them have trouble with the filing of their income tax statements or going backwards to get income tax statements done. Apparently it's a firm guideline, there's a firm rule that they have to see this. I offered the solution of let's do a statutory declaration if that person is having issues with getting income tax statements, just to self-declare with a semi-officer of the law that, yes, they did not make any income in the last year, and that's a good enough solution for the interim. Then we can always get the paperwork necessary later, because the income tax takes quite awhile. Somebody who needs fuel in December, if they're waiting for paperwork from income tax Canada and the flow of paperwork is going to take two months and by then the elder still needs fuel every two or three weeks, that fuel goes a long ways. The seniors do not have that much income.

I spoke often about the schools in Trout Lake and the one in Nahanni Butte and I really believe that we have to start developing a strategy to upgrade and beef up our schools in the smaller communities, because I think we spend lots of money on super schools and big, expensive schools, but now it's time to start concentrating on the smaller communities. I'd sure like to see us work towards that. They really have to be

refurbished. Some of them in my communities are 20 to 30 years old and they do need reworking. I believe that we have to start developing a strategy towards that.

I'm pleased to see that all the work we did on the official languages is finally making its way into the budget. There's a start in terms of some of the programming that we're looking at for official languages. I certainly continue to support that and would certainly like to see more of it done in future budgets. Certainly it's a start on revitalization and supporting our Aboriginal languages in all the communities and in the schools. I know that we just did the Aboriginal student achievement workshops. The Minister was in Fort Simpson and people were very pleased to see him there, taking the time to be with the people, to hear their needs, and indeed we have a long ways to go because some of the Aboriginal Student Achievement recommendations did include languages. We have to start working towards that, getting it into the schools, immersion style. I believe that would really help our Aboriginal students.

I think another big thing is the Minister and government have heard about employment rates in the small communities. I'm glad to see there's money in the budget to continue our successful summer employment for small communities this coming summer once again. I look forward to working with the communities and getting the proposals in and getting some work in the communities.

Just with that, I'll end my opening comments now and I'll be glad to address further concerns as we deliberate the budget for the rest of the week.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start off by saying that I'm really happy to see the review of the Early Childhood Development Framework happening. I think there's quite a considerable amount of new research and insights into this area and the opportunity for gains that can influence our effectiveness in many, many areas. I look forward to that.

Already in this short session so far we've passed two motions dealing with education and I hope the Minister has heard those. They were broadly supported and I think in the first area, the Aboriginal student achievement that's mentioned here under school system, I'm happy to see extra effort there. I hope it's wisely used. We clearly need to do a better job in this area.

I want to point out just by way of an example related to the motion, the Phoenix School in Fort Smith is one that's been working. It's graduated 30 students that probably would not have graduated or did not graduate because the regular system was

not appropriate for their learning. Twenty more are anticipated to graduate this year. Just when the school is demonstrating its effectiveness after years of getting it together, we're coming along and chopping it off at the knees. I'm assuming that this Aboriginal Student Achievement program could put support at least in those areas where programs have demonstrated they're successful and should not be cut.

I, again, appreciate the increased support for the arts. I think we've done a good job there. I'm not one to say we can never do a better job, but I think we can be happy that we've made some real progress in this area.

The \$300,000 for the expansion of the community-based Teacher Education Program that the Minister mentioned in the South Slave, what I hear from residents down there is some of them at least would sooner see support continue to things like Phoenix School where there's a demonstrated success. We need to graduate high school students before we get into this program. Having said that, I recognize a real need in this area and I appreciate the Minister responding to that need. I think there are other regions that could use that effort as well.

The apprenticeship and employment development, the new \$925,000 for this coming year to support employment in small and remote communities by way of wage subsidies, I think this is again an opportunity to put into action what I spoke to earlier today in the budget address. That is to spend that wisely and in a way that contributes to reaching many of our goals beyond just employment. We have an opportunity to influence things that will contribute to our local economies, our social fabric and our improved environment if it's spent wisely. This is another specific opportunity for that.

Again, the review of the student financial assistance. I think to some degree we've been providing the Minister with a review or contributions to that review and I hope he's been listening. There's a clear need of recognition of support for veterinary services. That hopefully will fall under this review. The policy needs to be put in place for 2011-2012 with funding to start the following fiscal year. Again that policy, we've let it lapse. We need to re-establish that.

There are a number of areas where we have been talking to the Minister for the life of our term and haven't seemed to make progress. One area is, of course, the community-wide milk subsidy in those communities where milk is sold prohibitively expensive. I stick with the theme of the opportunities we have for real advances across a suite of government goals. This is the single most effective thing we could do in that area. It's been demonstrated by health professionals where these problems lie. The Minister came out with a Healthy Foods Program of some kind, \$400,000, a one-time

effort and then walked away leaving people falling flat. Again I have to underline that, underscore that and mention again that we have been repeatedly calling for programs in Aurora College that provide sustainable community administrators and renewable energy technicians, and so far we've seen no action on that.

We know that the Program Review Office that we have heard exists and is working did a comprehensive review of adult literacy and basic education programs and drew some pretty strong conclusions there. I'm looking forward to seeing how those conclusions have made it into the department's budget this coming fiscal year. I'll leave it at that for now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Next on my list is Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of comments. In general I echo many of Mr. Bromley's comments. I think that there's an opportunity in all the budgets that we're seeing and all the budgets of each department that we're going to go through. There's been an opportunity for them to do some things differently and I don't see that either of the departments that we've looked at so far have taken up that challenge and have looked at what they're doing and looked at doing it differently to try and encompass some of the main philosophies that Members on this side of the House have been talking about for a long time.

In terms of early childhood development, I also am pleased to see that there is a review of the Framework for Action, which apparently is in the works right now and I look forward to seeing that review. I'm a firm believer in evaluating programs once we've set them up and I don't think this government does that nearly often enough.

I do have fairly major concerns with the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. I support the intent of the initiative but I'm not sure that we're putting the money in the right place to effect what we need to do to increase Aboriginal student success. I think, if I read this correctly and from what I remember of the business plans, what we're intending to do this year is a literacy initiative. We're going to hire a literacy coordinator and put libraries in five additional communities. I'm not seeing how that is going to increase Aboriginal student achievement success. I'm going to have some questions for the Minister when we get to that part of the budget.

In terms of the funding for the arts, I too am extremely supportive of the amount of money that this government has put in over the years. It has been increasing and that's a good thing. I hope that we continue to increase support for the arts as we go forward.

The adult and post-secondary education section talks about an expanded delivery of community-based Teacher Education Program in the South Slave. I also support the local teacher education programs in our various regions but I do wonder whether or not the department has done an evaluation of the current community-based teacher education programs that are in operation. Have they proved to be successful? On what basis are we expanding the program into the South Slave? Is there a demonstrated need? Was the department approached to put it in or is this a decision that the department made and on what basis did they make that decision? I'm looking for an evaluation of what we're doing now and was there a demonstrated need to go into the South Slave with this program.

With regard to the apprenticeship and employment development, we're implementing an NWT Labour Force Development Framework and I think coordination of our apprenticeship and employment development programs is good and it sounds as though that's what this framework does. I haven't seen it, but I would hope that it would coordinate what we're doing in this area.

I'm quite concerned about what the Minister is saying here under income security. We're going to review the income security delivery model in 2011-2012. It probably does need to be reviewed but I wonder if the department is reviewing it in isolation or if it is going to review its income security model in light of what goes on in other departments. I'm specifically concerned that there's no mention here of reviewing it in light of an Anti-Poverty Strategy or an anti-poverty framework. The anti-poverty work is ongoing and it does involve the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I know that. So I really hope that if we're going to review our income security delivery, that we will do it with the view to assisting those who are living in poverty, because certainly now income security does not make it easy for people to either get the funds, to apply for the funds, it impacts on how they can or cannot get their housing. There are so many things where there are barriers which are put up knowingly or unknowingly, but people run across roadblocks at every turn when they are trying to deal with income security and housing particularly.

The statement that we're adding almost one and three-quarter million dollars to the costs for income security is quite concerning, \$1.4 million to increase regional budgets for income assistance and then another \$350,000 to ensure the retention of positions, so I'm presuming that's staffing, because we have a rising income assistance caseload. That's concerning. We should be wanting to see our income security caseload going down. We should be getting people off income security and I hope that with this review we'll see why people are on income security and we will be able to determine how we can get them off it. That should be the

ultimate goal. We should have a Territory where nobody needs income security.

I'll have some specific questions on certain programs when we come to that portion of the budget, Mr. Chair, but that's all I think I'll say at this point. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Next on my list is Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to just be very quick. Most of my comments and questions will come as we go into detail. Similar to my colleagues, I'm pleased to see the work being done under the Healthy Choices Framework and what's been done to date on the Aboriginal Student Achievement. I think those are both very good initiatives and I look forward to seeing the information as that comes forward.

It's going to be no surprise to anybody that I'm happy with the additional support that this government is putting into the arts. I think it's important from several perspectives. Supporting this industry is good for business but it's also good for tourism, it's also good for the overall well-being of people throughout the Northwest Territories, so I'm happy to see some additional money in there.

I'm very pleased to see the additional \$200,000 that you've included to expand exhibits and collections at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. It doesn't sound like a huge amount of money, but I think with \$200,000 you can go a long way to making truly northern exhibits that are reflective of the people throughout this Territory, and I look forward to seeing those exhibits in the future.

Related to that, as I have said before, I like the concept of curated shows and I think there might be an opportunity in this area to look at some of the exhibits and see if there's any potential to include some curated art in any of our exhibits, exhibits that can travel outside of the Northwest Territories to really show people some of the cultural significance of our great Territory.

One of the areas that I do have concern with with the budget is actually with respect to infrastructure. I know that we're not talking about infrastructure right now -- that was in October -- but infrastructure does drive O and M, and in Yellowknife there are a couple of schools that I think need some work and because the work isn't done I do believe it dries up the operations cost. Specifically, the far side of Mildred Hall, the windows and the insulation on that back weren't upgraded at the same time the rest of the building was done. The department and the board did a fantastic job of upgrading that building but we didn't quite finish. I'm worried about the fact that we're not getting that done and we continue to drive the operation costs of that school. I'd like the department to keep on top of that and keep working

towards trying to find some solutions with respect to the far side of Mildred Hall.

Also, Sissons School is in need of a significant amount of work. It's quite old. The mechanical systems are quite old, and once again, if we don't move on those types of things, operation costs in those schools will continue to go up, which is at a disadvantage for the programming we deliver. We need to make sure that the money is going to the education, and if we can get some savings with respect to mechanical and operations, that would be good. It's an infrastructure point but it does drive O and M.

The other infrastructure issue I have that, in my opinion, also drives O and M, and that's Aurora College. There is no stand-alone Yellowknife campus here in the capital of the Northwest Territories. We're in a couple of different buildings delivering services and our students are located in different parts of town. It's my understanding that Northern United Place is fairly expensive, so obviously a stand-alone campus would help us gain better control over the operational costs of a Yellowknife-based campus and, once again, give us an opportunity to roll more money into the program, which is really the most important thing.

I know we're not talking infrastructure but I am concerned about the way that some of the existing facilities we have may be driving our O and M costs and potentially taking away from programming that we could have.

I share my colleagues' comments with respect to income security. I don't think we'd ever be able to get a system where there's no need for income support. People go through cycles and people are always going to need, many people are going to need support from time to time. I'd sure like us to get to a system where it was more proactive and it was more effective on helping people transition from a low point financially in their lives where they need assistance to the point where they can be more self-sufficient and not require the social assistance so much. It's going to be hard work. I know you guys are working towards that, but it would be nice to see some more progress on finding ways to transition some of these people out. I don't know how many times we've heard people don't want to get off social assistance because it's so much easier to stay on. We need to find a way to help people transition out and make productive choices. I remember the tag line years ago used to be productive choices, and it's a good tag line, but let's see a little bit more action there on trying to help these people get out of the system.

I do have lots of questions as we go through the department, but those are my basic, general comments and I look forward to more discussion as we move through the document. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Next on my list is Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman. I was happy to hear the Minister say that children and students are the cornerstone of the education system. I think they're the cornerstone of our society, actually. I find that putting effort into the early childhood development is a very positive move for the small communities, no question about that. I think that it's important. Even today in my Member's statement I spoke of the need to support daycares and the need to support preschool and all of those types of programs that support the development of the children in their early years. I'm very pleased with that and I'm hoping that the department puts even more emphasis into early childhood development and more money into the program in the future.

I also think it's important working with the adult and post-secondary education, but I think it's a step in the right direction to start putting positions like student wellness coordinators and so on, just putting money into the programs and having the students go in there and run through the program and everything is good, but sometimes people need the additional support in order to get through these programs, get through all of the programs. Many of the programs that are offered at the college -- adult education, health reps, community wellness, early childhood development, the natural resource program, the social worker program -- all of those programs are very good for the economy of the North, very good for the economy of the small communities and so on. I think the higher rate of success we have at the adult and post-secondary education, the better opportunities and the better off the smaller communities would be.

Of course, as I indicated many times, if we see successes in the small communities then the whole North will benefit, because when we have pockets of very low employment in the Northwest Territories, then even in the areas where we have good employment, places like Yellowknife and Norman Wells and so on where the employment rates are high, it's still affected. Those communities are still affected.

Just an example: if we had 80 percent employment in communities like Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Lutselk'e, all of the regional centres and the capital will all benefit from that. People would be able to travel into communities, spend money in communities and so on. Teaching and educating and making sure that people are successful in the adult programs and post-secondary programs are important. All of those things that are not apparent in the classroom but are support for the students is excellent. So that is something that I was very happy to see.

The Apprenticeship and Employment Program, NWT Labour Force Development Framework, I think is again another step in the right direction. I feel that in the small communities we should have tradesmen. Either tradesmen or apprentices, and if we have to bring tradesmen in so that we have apprentices in all the small communities, in all the disciplines, so that in the future years we don't have to bring people into the small communities to get the work done, we are able to run programs, government programs like, one example, if we had a couple of apprentice carpenters, we could run housing programs all year using the employment program, hiring people and having some people go through an apprenticeship that could remain on with them and some that are just labour. I recognize that, but in a way to where we could end up creating our own tradespeople in the small communities and have all of the work that is necessary in the small communities done by small community people. I think that this area here, employment development and apprenticeship, speaks to that and, of course, the department investing the almost \$1 million to support the employment in small communities again speaks to that issue. All of those combined with any other programs that -- any other work I should say -- needs to be done in the small communities could be all run through this area utilizing labour programs, employment programs, apprenticeships and so on. I think that is about the extent of my comments, Mr. Chairman.

I guess just in closing, something that is not mentioned here but is important to my communities is somehow if this department is the lead, then I guess it could be the right lead in that it is creating some employment in small communities, some permanency, whether it be seasonal or not, but some permanency that provides income into the small communities. I'll pull a number out of the air, \$100,000 worth of income into one community. That is \$100,000 less support, less income support, that type of thing, which is also the responsibility of this program going into that community. It turns people that are on the system and are being paid by the taxpayer to essentially, because there is no employment, into people who are contributing to the economy of the Northwest Territories. If we can have small communities as contributors into the economy, then we have done a lot.

I think that is what this government has to do. Just imagine that the small communities didn't have employment rates of 40 percent but had, rather, employment rates of 65 percent. That would be phenomenal. That would be absolutely amazing and that is something that we could dream of in this government, but it is something that we could actually do. That is the thing, those things are actually achievable.

There is enough work in various areas, whether it is my favourite topic of fixing up elders' homes or getting out there and cleaning up the land that has been, some of the sites that have been contaminated, and resource development or resource exploration, so be it, but there is enough work out there for people. There is the money to do it and this developing of some sort of employment program that targets employment rates, the lowest of the employment rates in the small communities, I think, is very important. It is something that can be done, actually, with very little effort, I think. The impact is significant. Five positions in a community that has a population of 70 would increase the employment rates by 10 to 15 percent easily, so that becomes significant.

Also, the career technical services getting back to the schools, I think that is essential. That is an essential element of K to 12. I know that in Fort Resolution, for the first time in 20 years that school is going to see career technical services functional. I went into the school with the principal, looked at all the brand new equipment that was brought in, thanks to the support from the department, and I think that with teachers' support, in order to get that machinery up and running and the rooms ready for use, it is going to be a major, major improvement just to the morale of the students in the Deninu School. The same thing is going to happen in Lutselk'e. The money is there, all they need is a building, so it is my job to work with the government and the local district authority to get a building to put the career technical services equipment in play and the students in Lutselk'e will also benefit from that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Committee, we are on general comments. Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I have nobody else on my list. Anybody? Not seeing any, I will turn to the Minister for his response. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. There has been a lot of discussion from the Members and I appreciate that, and a lot of good ideas, some concerns, so I will have to work with that. There has been talks that there shouldn't be any cuts to the breakfast program and, as you know, the schools provide those programs and have been very successful, so we will continue to work with the educational authorities in that respect.

The teacher housing subsidy that was raised in the House earlier, in Tuktoyaktuk, this is an area that there has been agreement with the NWT Housing Corporation for a number of years. Apparently it is sunsetting, so this is an area of concern, as well as we have to look after our teachers, but I understand that the units are still available for those teachers, so this is an area that we have to look at, what kind of options there are.

Overcrowding, that has been addressed already in this House as well. Actually the motion that came forward as well today, lack of teachers, they want more teachers, students maybe under 10 students. This is another area that I did commit to looking at as a department. Not only that, there are other initiatives that are on their way, such as Aboriginal Student Achievement initiative, they have heard this already, so it won't be part of the discussion.

Some of the students drop out of school in Inuvik, coming from a small, remote community, this will definitely have the opportunity to discuss this in the Beaufort-Delta during the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative and that is going to be on the way in the next couple of months. I am looking forward to more response in that respect.

The same with the retrofitting schools, we have heard about that and we need to look at where things are at with that, Mr. Chairman. Shops and science labs, similar to discussion that was addressed earlier, whether it be CTS, this is an area that we definitely need to explore, see what kind of options are out there, working with the educational authorities, because we provide funding for operations and maintenance of the schools, but we want every student to be successful, so those are just some of the areas that were brought to our attention.

Income support funds, paying out vouchers instead of cash has been brought to our attention. We are waiting for the community to give us a letter of support and then it is just a matter of issuing direction in that respect. Mr. Chairman, this is an area that is a concern to us, as well, because we want the wellness of every child and to be fed as well. We need to monitor this area. I will be working closely with the Member that raised that issue in Tuk.

There is also a concern about social passing. That has been addressed through ASA, Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. There is going to be a recommendation coming out of the initiative. I am looking forward to ideas and suggestions from the communities.

The elementary playground, that has been addressed here today as well. The Member alluded to similar in Liard. This is an area that we need to work with the DEA and the parent group is currently fundraising. We need to closely monitor that and see where things are at. I did make a commitment to work with the community of Simpson.

Wrigley's high school students, there is a concern that was brought forward. I did commit to the Member that I will have my department and DEA possibly meet with the parents and just explain what is truly happening with those students. There are stories, but we need to get out the facts of what is happening, because there are strict guidelines as

well when you are in residence and so forth. Mr. Chairman, this is a commitment that I made.

SFA review, it is going to be happening once we go through this budget planning process. The Member also stated possibly paying for rent. If those ideas come forward, we will definitely look at it and see where we go with it. I would like to hear ideas from other students and parents and community members as well. We are reaching out to all Northwest Territories, as well, and the students that are outside.

Seniors home fuel subsidy, this is an area that I did instruct my department to look at seriously because it is not the first time we heard about that. There has been a discussion on stat declaration, income tax that takes long to get that information. We understand if it is minus 40, we need to act on it. We have done that in the past, but I think we need to seriously look at this overall.

Schools in Trout Lake and Nahanni investment and retrofit, we did look at Trout Lake and we are looking at other schools, as well, to see what their status is. If it needs to be a retrofit, then we need to discuss that in the upcoming capital planning process.

Official languages, the dollars are identified. The need to stress the importance of revitalizing our language and keeping our department focused on official languages has been earmarked. There has been good praise on summer employment, the \$925,000 we have allocated. We heard from the Members and we decided to move forward on that.

Early Childhood Development Framework, that is underway, as mentioned in this House. We are working with various parties on that. ASA and then Phoenix School were combined when the discussion arose. It was mentioned it was a chopping at the knees. This particular program has been very successful to date. The program dollars, the money is continuing. There have been some changes to the way it has been funded. We are not saying we are going to stop the Phoenix programming. The money is continuing, just in a different format. We can provide more information on that. We have done that through Fort Smith and Hay River. We can provide that to Members as well.

Increased support for arts over the years, as you know, Mr. Chairman, we have increased a heavy investment in this area. We will continue to do so. I believe this area will definitely and truly benefit the Northwest Territories.

The \$300,000 TEP in South Slave, the TEP program which Ms. Bisaro also alluded to, maybe we can re-evaluate the program and based on... Has it been successful to date? I think with any program there are always changes. We can definitely look at the program, but I did indicate and

committed in this House that I wanted to reach out to all regions to deliver a TEP program and we are doing that. I don't want to stop now and want to continue with other regions as well. I agree that if we need to change our programming, then that is an area that we definitely need to look at because we do need Aboriginal speaking teachers. We want to produce those teachers in the Northwest Territories so we can rely on them so they can teach our children.

The milk subsidy was raised through the nutrition foods program that we allocated \$400,000. Of course, as you know, it is sunsetting March 31st. This is an area that we have looked at as well. The \$400,000 has been used in those regions. So we continue to discuss with other departments, as well, when it comes to nutritious food.

The veterinary services, as the Member alluded to, again SFA review, as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, that could be part of the discussion that can be brought forward to our department. We have to look at all options. We have to look at what has been brought to our attention. Also, the renewable tech admin and other areas, we have shared this with the college already. The college is fully aware. They are looking at other jurisdictions, what has been offered. I will be going back to the college to see where things are at, the current status on this particular matter.

ALBE review, the question was a part of this budget. ALBE is still under review as we speak. It will be finalized in June 2011, this year. Obviously it is not in the budget, but we will be planning for next year's budget.

ASA literacy coordinator, increasing funding for community libraries. I understand Ms. Bisaro will be asking more detailed information, so we can provide that as well.

The review of Income Security Framework, the Member also brought up the Anti-Poverty Strategy, if it could be somehow linked together. Yes, we will tie our income security review with the Anti-Poverty Strategy so we will work hand in hand with that.

Income security, the \$1.43 million increased regional budget and also retention of PYs due to caseload increase, of course our number one goal is to get people off income security, but we can't just say we'll cut off the funding because there are a lot of people out there who are on income security right now. The 1.4, especially in the regional, the money is going to regional community. I must state again in this House that is our goal. As Members have alluded to, we want to get people off income security. One of the areas we continue to look at is productive choices. I've been trying to work closely with the communities to kick-start what we can do to get people off income security. Whether it be splitting wood or checking fish nets for the elders,

those are just some of the examples we've thrown around.

The \$200,000 increase to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre reflects northern perspective and is a worthwhile investment. The Member also shared with us a curated showcase that could fit in this area. This is an area that we need to seriously look at. So we're fully aware of that.

He also touched base on the infrastructure. The Member also wants us to closely monitor what's happening and some buildings need upgrading. At Mildred Hall the Member referred to windows in the back area; finding solutions. We clearly heard that and we need to work with that.

The college, the stand-alone college, as you know, the lease is coming up in 2012 which is not too far off in the distance. We need to have a plan in place. Coming this fall we may have to extend the lease agreement again because in order to plan for a facility, then we need to have at least a two or three-year planning process. It's not just our department. We've been talking to outside organizations and interdepartmentally as well. This is a matter that's very important to us and to find out what options are there for us when it comes to an Aurora College stand-alone building.

It's important that daycares and preschools need to put more emphasis on this. I think we've done that in the past and we'll continue to do so. As I stated in the House, there are certain programs that communities can fit the criteria. We'll continue to monitor this area as well.

Post-secondary PYs, whether it be wellness coordinators, as Mr. Beaulieu alluded to, the higher rate of success the whole North will benefit. We truly believe in that too. Post-secondary is an area of interest to our department because we need those post-secondary students to come back and run this government and organizations in the communities. There have been some changes. SFA, as you know, is currently well beyond the review. We're listening to the Members and to the community-at-large; the students most specifically. We'll do what we can in that respect.

Apprenticeship programs in small communities, need for tradespersons and apprentices. As you know, the Apprenticeship Program has an increase in funding and even into the regional communities. That will continue.

The Member also stated the possibility of hiring, I guess, or creating employment in small communities. I think that \$925,000 is a good start and having the Apprenticeship Program in small communities will create opportunities as well. Having a partnership approach with the communities, the corporations. Just GNWT alone cannot do this successfully. We need partnerships

in the communities. So this overall will be an interdepartmental approach with community partnerships.

CTS in the schools. The Member has approached us on various occasions. We have initiated some schools with CTS. We feel that if we deliver more CTS into schools, it will be beneficial to students in the communities. Similar to the ones we have here in Yellowknife and other communities.

Those are just some of the main areas that the Members have touched on. Of course, I'm looking forward to more detailed information as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty, for those comprehensive remarks. Does committee agree that we now go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 10-7, Education, Culture and Employment, department summary, operations expenditure summary, we will defer until after the activity summary. Page 10-8, Education, Culture and Employment, department summary, information item, infrastructure investment summary.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 10-9, Education, Culture and Employment, department summary, information item, revenue summary. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question here in regard to the revenue for early learning and child care. There is none in this proposed budget. Could I ask why?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. That \$272,000 that was earmarked for 2010-2011 and funding from Human Resource and Social Development of Canada, the federal funding to support early childhood programming is due to sunset March 31, 2011. So it was the federal funding.

MS. BISARO: Okay. So what was that \$272,000 used for and are we dropping programs because we don't have that revenue? What's it being used for in this current year and how's it going to impact the 2011-2012 budget?

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

MR. DANIELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$272,000 that we got from the federal government has been integrated into other early childhood development supports that we have available in a range of different programs. We don't anticipate having to decrease our activity. There will be smaller amounts of money but we're hopeful that we can continue to support the range of programs that we do have available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Daniels. Ms. Bisaro. Thank you. Committee, we're on page 10-9, Education, Culture and Employment, department summary, information item, revenue summary.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chairman, I move to report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses from the House.

I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 133-16(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2011-2012, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

---Carried

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 Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.:

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

14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project
 - Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits
 - Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits - What We Heard
 - Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy
 - Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments' Interim Response to "Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future"
 - Tabled Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts over \$5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010
 - Tabled Document 133-16(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2011-2012
 - Tabled Document 135-16(5), GNWT Response to CR 3-16(5): Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act
 - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act
 - Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act
 - Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
 - Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act
 - Minister's Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights
 - Minister's Statement 88-16(5), Sessional Statement
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.
Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until
Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

