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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, June 11, 2012****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:29 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 36-17(3):
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SUPPORT**

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to rise today to express my support and appreciation for the great work accomplished by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

This initiative has been no small task. The commission visited our communities, set up supports, and provided a forum to allow our survivors to share their pain and begin to heal. This is a significant accomplishment.

I would like to acknowledge the fourth anniversary of the apology by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and the work of his government, especially Minister Leona Aglukkaq, that has led to this day.

I would also like to thank Health Canada, as well as all the members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for their dedication and commitment during this process.

Mr. Speaker, many of our residents have suffered the direct impacts of residential school abuse, and many of their family members and loved ones have also been affected.

Over 6,000 common experience payment cheques were issued to residents in the NWT. We know that healing will be a lifelong process.

As Minister of Health and Social Services, I see the effects of the residential school experience reflected in our health and social services system, especially in mental health and addictions. Yet, I am also inspired by the courage, faith and determination of these survivors.

The Department of Health and Social Services provides over \$9 million annually to support our

residents with mental health and addictions challenges. We fund addictions counsellors, on-the-land programs and treatment centres for residents. We will continue to develop and deliver programs and services that meet the needs of all residents of the NWT.

In addition, the Department of Health and Social Services is working with communities across the NWT to develop community wellness plans that will support community designed wellness programming, including on-the-land healing and after-care.

The programs and services we offered contribute to our collective efforts to assist survivors and their family.

I applaud the work of Health Canada Northern Region and their Resolution Health Support Program, which provides supports to survivors and their family. I would encourage all survivors to take advantage of this program.

Mr. Speaker, today is another step on the road to truth and reconciliation. As Members of this Legislature, and leaders in our communities, we must continue our efforts to help in the healing process and in restoring dignity to all of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Before we continue, colleagues, I'd like to recognize a former Commissioner, Speaker, Minister, Member, Sergeant-at-Arms and our Honourary Clerk of the House, Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford.

---Applause

The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 37-17(3):
CURRICULA IMPROVEMENTS**

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is committed to improving educational outcomes for all students of the Northwest Territories. We have developed new curricula that will be introduced in the fall.

As part of our efforts to develop culturally appropriate and engaging learning opportunities for our students, Northern Studies 10 includes a new focus on the history and legacy of residential

schools in Canada. Optional implementation of the new course will begin with the 2012-13 school year and become mandatory in 2013-14.

Consultations are underway for the proposed development of Northern Studies 20 and 30 over the next two years. We plan to add a unit to the Northern Studies 20 course to explore the impacts of residential schools in a northern context. These are being developed in partnership with Nunavut Education.

The new residential schools unit comes with a full collection of teaching resources that help students and teachers explore the policies and historical context of colonialism that supported residential schools. Students will learn about the positive and negative impacts that residential school experiences had on many people; they'll talk about the opportunities for reconciliation and healing that are needed today.

Mr. Speaker, many generous and courageous Northerners provided powerful testimonies and guidance in the development of the Grade 10 unit. We are convinced that these contributions will make a difference to our young people, their families and communities.

The support of the Legacy of Hope Foundation, Health Canada and especially the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been critical to the development of this teaching resource. These efforts toward understanding and healing are important, and I have been involved in this process since the beginning, attending all of the meetings and speaking on behalf of the people that attended residential schools in the Northwest Territories. I will be travelling to Saskatoon later in June for the next meeting.

Mr. Speaker, the North is a spectacular place, rich in resources, culture and heritage, and history, and it is vital that our children have the opportunity to explore, understand and build on the lessons history has taught us. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 38-17(3):
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION
TO RECORD STATEMENTS AT
NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the work the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is doing in the Northwest Territories and across Canada is a critical step in the healing process for people suffering from the abuse and trauma of residential schools. Our government is working with them to support our people and our communities.

Far too often, people who have been through residential school have ended up in front of our community justice committees, our courtrooms or

ultimately in our correctional facilities. While many people in communities have shared their experiences during the Inuvik national event or in their own communities, those in correctional facilities may not have had this opportunity.

To date, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has not had the opportunity to enter any correctional facility in this country to work with inmates to record their statements in an organized way.

We are planning to change that.

I am pleased to notify Members of the Assembly that we are working with the commission and Health Canada to find a way for this innovative work to happen this fall in our largest facility, the North Slave Correctional Centre.

Staff are planning carefully to ensure the people who are opening themselves to this healing journey will be properly supported, both in the facility and again when they return to their home communities. Our counterparts in Health Canada and the Department of Health and Social Services play essential roles to make sure once released from a correctional facility, inmates have the support they need.

Mr. Speaker, we hope to set a precedent here for other facilities in Canada to follow. This will be a valuable process for all inmates who choose to participate.

The statement-taking process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is just the beginning of the healing journey. We hope that many of those in our largest correctional facility will take this important step. We will be there to support them when they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 39-17(3):
WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
JUNE 15, 2012

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

We all need to take a moment and say thank you to those elders who have taught us, supported us and provided the wisdom that has guided our lives.

Many of us in this House owe a debt of gratitude to the elders in our communities that have helped guide us in our careers.

All residents need to stand up and say with one voice that any form of elder abuse is unacceptable. June 15th is a good day to take the time to do this officially, but we must be vigilant every day. Abuse of any kind, taking advantage of elders in any way or neglecting the needs of elders is unacceptable.

Elders shaped and built our communities in their younger years, raising their children and working to make the NWT what it is. Today elders continue to contribute to our communities by providing advice, wisdom, supporting a cause, sharing life experience, volunteering and participating in community activities.

When I travel to communities and meet with people, the elders in the meetings know the issues and offer positive solutions.

Mr. Speaker, we encourage our elders to make healthy choices so they can live independently at home. We should also encourage residents to report elder abuse and neglect. It is hard to imagine that up to 80 percent of elder abuse or neglect goes undetected. We owe it to our elders to protect them.

To show support for our elders and to let residents know elder abuse is unacceptable, I encourage people to wear purple in the House on June 14th to raise awareness for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Yakeleya.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS ON SURVIVORS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend I was thinking about this day because of a motion that was read in the House last week. I was thinking about the students that we are thinking about. I was thinking about the parents who are not here today with us, parents who put their trust in the hands of the church, the government, either by sending the children to residential schools or if the parents were so scared that when the children were taken from the community, such as my uncle, when they heard the boat coming in and stopping in Tulita, they would run to the bushes and they would hide. The RCMP or the Indian agent or the priest would go up there to the house and take these kids.

Sometimes these kids would be taken away, they would be crying, not sure how long they'd go or how far they would go. I remember my uncle telling me they took him to Fort Providence and they tried to walk back to Tulita after a couple of months and weeks in Fort Providence. They didn't think they would last there long because of the situation. They weren't told what was going to happen to them. Anyhow, my uncle said they stayed in Providence for years and years and they came back for awhile and later on the boat came back to pick them up and he said this time he told his dad he's not going and he took off in the bush.

Those types of impacts I hear from my people. I hear people who are talking, families who were

devastated, tormented, families who had a lot of pain. Mr. Speaker, today is the day of healing and reconciliation. It means that people need to learn about forgiveness. I found it very hard. My grandmother was taken away for about nine years and she stayed in Hay River. Yet, she still showed me the power of forgiveness. She even went to church every day. I kept telling her, Grannie, why do you go? She said you have to learn how to forgive.

Thank you, Grannie, for teaching me how to forgive. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS ON THE BUDGETARY PROCESS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The budgetary process just completed has led us to modest new appropriations and realignment of funds and response to Regular Members' fiscal priorities.

The newly allocated funds amount to \$3.728 million, one-quarter of 1 percent of the total \$1.411 billion budget. There are \$1.25 million in funds re-profiled internally and perhaps \$140,000 in foregone revenue. That's a total change of \$5.118 million or 0.36, one-third of a percent of the total.

The government has fiercely defended its position that there should be no additional expenditures, because "we don't want to jeopardize our Aa1 credit rating." Meanwhile the government also says it's "committed to protecting the programs and services our residents rely on."

The guiding principles of consensus government point out that consensus government is defined by the ability and willingness of all Members to work together with their respective roles for the collective good of the people and that the opportunities for all Members to have meaningful input in important decisions is fundamental. Yet over the past three weeks there has been a battle royal to have a significant impact on the direction of one-third of 1 percent of the government's proposed budget. Since then, the government has brought forward new proposals for both infrastructure and operations dollars that already dwarf the minority budgetary achievements of Regular Members. Undoubtedly, other appropriations or warrants can be expected.

The business planning process is long, arduous, and held up to the guiding principles requirement for meaningful input, unfortunately, does not leave an impression of open dialogue. Input from this side of the House is seen as undermining the budget and described as showing irresponsible disregard for our long-term fiscal security, yet one has to ask,

according to the records, whose decisions actually threaten our fiscal security.

All Members gathered at the beginning of our term to set the 17th Assembly priorities. All Members make recommendations on the draft budget, a key feature of our consensus government, and all Members decide whether to approve the budget. As we move into the next business planning cycle, the government needs to pay much more attention to the words we are saying and have said.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SENIOR CITIZENS WEEK

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. June 10th to the 16th is recognized as Senior Citizens Week in the Northwest Territories. Senior Citizens Week provides an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to celebrate with our seniors their lives, their accomplishments, wisdom and knowledge. It can be an exciting time to get the family and community together to be active with our elders and our older adults, such as taking them out for a tea or just going and doing a regular house visit and appreciating them for who they are.

During this week let's take the extra time and care in honouring our senior citizens. The prosperity we continue to enjoy today has been made possible by the seniors and elders of our community. It is during this week that we ask communities across the NWT to join us in celebrating, as well, Elders Abuse Awareness Day, which is June 15th. We must honour our elders as they are the teachers of our knowledge, keepers of our culture and traditions. They are also the caregivers that allowed us to be who we are today, sitting in this House with respect and values.

We must respect the hard work and commitment they have made in shaping our communities and this territory. With that said, we must work collaboratively to ensure issues that are of concern to seniors are addressed and we do it as a group. The seniors have a saying of seniors helping seniors, but I will want to take it a little bit further and say communities helping seniors, government helping seniors.

Just before I came into the House today, I had a phone call from a couple of elders in one of the surrounding communities back home and they were pretty upset with what had happened last week with regard to a Minister's statement made last week ensuring that seniors will be paying rent on September 1st. Hopefully, that does not go through. We are still wanting to create some more discussion on that.

In the small communities there's a high cost of living, lack of jobs and there are seniors who take care of their families who are adults. Because of that, they're going to have to pay. They take care of the adults in their families and we're still trying to squeeze every little bit of dollars out of them. Thirty-five dollars doesn't seem like a lot, but in a small community it might be enough for a couple of meals for one day. I respect our elders, all the traditions and cultures that they have, and that concern needs to be addressed.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO FLOODING IN NAHANNI BUTTE AND FORT LIARD

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was a dramatic weekend in Nahanni Butte, Fort Liard and Fort Simpson. Melting snow and rain have swollen the Liard River to flood levels. The biggest emergency was in Nahanni Butte. Rising waters were lapping at the door of the power plant when finally it had to be shut down. With the power cut off, it was decided to evacuate the residents of the community to Fort Simpson by air and ground transportation. Fifty-two people were moved to safety.

The community of Fort Simpson has really come through. People have opened their homes, volunteered to help and worked hard to welcome the people of Nahanni Butte. I want to thank them for their kindness and hospitality. They are really making the best of it. It was a big job done on very short notice and I'm happy that it went so well. It looks like the emergency response exercise that Fort Simpson and region had about a month ago really paid off.

I also want to thank the mayor and staff of the Village of Fort Simpson, the staff at Municipal and Community Affairs, Health and Social Services and the Emergency Measures Coordinating Committee. I also understand the Department of Transportation played a big role, as well, and will help schedule flights when the evacuees can return to Nahanni Butte.

All of this happened when the ferry was out of service. High water on the Liard has brought a lot of logs and debris down the river. The N'dulee ferry crossing towards Wrigley is closed. This was a big concern to residents and visitors of Fort Simpson throughout all these evacuation procedures. At last report, water levels were stabilizing. This is good news, especially since 15 residents of Nahanni Butte stayed behind in the community. With any luck, everyone else will be able to return home early or later this week.

Thankfully, flooding like this is not a common event in Nahanni Butte. I hope the floodwaters have not done too much damage, but I trust our government will keep up the good job when the cleanup starts.

Once again, I offer my commendations to all involved for the safety and care of the people of Nahanni Butte and Fort Liard. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
STATUTORY REGULATION OF CHIROPRACTIC
AND MASSAGE THERAPY PROFESSIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of organizations representing health professionals in the Northwest Territories continue to ask for regulation of their sector. They continue, primarily, to come knock on the government's door as opposed to the government telling them that they should be regulated, and that certainly needs to be noted.

Who am I talking about? The chiropractic and massage therapy groups are certainly leading and becoming champions on this particular issue, because they feel it's very important to have clear regulations that protect themselves and our public.

It's becoming very popular, as we all know, how people continue to use those services of chiropractic and massage therapy. Of course, we all probably know somebody who wants to enter these types of professions with full accreditation. Many of these young students and even some of them a little bit on the more mature side who enter these careers go seek training and spent a lot of money on full accreditation, but when they come to the Northwest Territories they're not regulated.

Regulations would help everybody, not just the health professionals but also the public. Licensing the practices in the Northwest Territories would help define the scope, certainly the standards and code of ethics, which are very important. It will enhance the primary care through increased collaboration among all health professionals. Of course, when there are problems, it certainly gives an avenue and a direction on how to handle complaints.

This topic is not new to this House. It was brought up many times during the 16th Assembly, and there was talk even about creating an umbrella legislation to cover a health professional's act in some form. We're now into six or more months of the 17th Assembly and we've yet to hear anything on this particular subject.

I've spoken on this particular topic a number of times and perhaps even we should be looking at the issue of omnibus legislation and we could even reach out to the naturopathic profession, as well, that would like regulation included.

In short, new legislation needs to come forward soon, not just for us but for public confidence. It builds assurance with the public that we are watching out for the good and health... This is a particular subject that I think the public has finally come to say we expect our government to be watching out for us, and regulation and legislation is the mechanism that needs to be done on this particular topic.

That said, I'll have questions for the Health Minister later today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Member for the Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HAMLET OF ENTERPRISE
COMMUNITY PROFILE

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to highlight a small but very enterprising community in my riding. The hamlet of Enterprise, with about 100 people, is known as the gateway to the Northwest Territories. The community is located about 90 kilometres into the Northwest Territories from the Alberta border along the Mackenzie Highway at the turnoff to Hay River.

Enterprise is the first community highway travellers see when they enter the Northwest Territories. Many stop to picnic beside the scenic Hay River or pay a visit to Winnie's Restaurant, a friendly place offering delicious home cooked meals and a wonderful selection of Dene arts and crafts. Other local businesses include service stations and the Twin Falls Motel to accommodate travellers.

Enterprise was established when the highway was built in 1967. It was incorporated as a hamlet in 2007. The community probably advertises itself as environmentally friendly, clean, safe and a sustainable community with manageable growth.

The only real cloud on the horizon for this hardworking little town is the economy. Enterprise likes visitors and needs some for its business to survive. Better infrastructure is one way to encourage travellers to stay for a meal, tank of gas or a night's rest in the community. The hamlet is working hard to improve local services.

A water well will be drilled in August to supply their fire department and community garden. The well will also test flow rates and water quality. If those tests are positive, the hamlet could potentially develop a water treatment plant and operate its own water supply system. Currently the hamlet buys all its water from the Town of Hay River.

Later today I will have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for the government's support for these efforts. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NWT SPORT GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few years, there has been a lot of controversy and concern over NWT sport administration. With the Arctic Winter Games held in Whitehorse a few months ago, and the many competitions leading up to those opening ceremonies, and with all the publicity around our Arctic Winter Games athletes, the media and the public have recently expressed views and opinions on our sport governance system.

There is no question that some regions and some communities of the NWT feel hard done by when compared to Yellowknife, but just what they need to fix the problem is still hotly debated. A recent editorial from the Northern Journal, a Fort Smith-based newspaper said, "The SRC, Sport and Recreation Council, has grown with substantial staff and a budget today of about \$8 million annually. There is still little improvement to the delivery of sport and recreation in the communities."

The NWT Sport and Rec Council was established in 2005 to address that very problem: concerns from communities and volunteers around equitable access to sport resources, both financial and human. Now some seven years later, the problem still exists. In fact, not only are the communities unhappy, but so is Yellowknife. Instead of efficiencies and streamlined operations, we have simply added another administrative layer to our sport administration system. The five member organizations of the SRC compete for dollars to deliver similar programs to our youth and our territorial sport organizations.

Volunteers are more burdened than ever with administrative work. In many cases, they now have to apply to two organizations for funding instead of one. About two years ago the SRC embarked on an ambitious strategic planning exercise which cost about \$200,000. There was hope that streamlining would occur, that the SRC member organizations would identify their areas of expertise, target their efforts and avoid duplication in programming. But that was not to be. Parties could not agree and the process was terminated. To date, there has been neither a report nor any recommendations from that exercise, at least none that have been made available to the public.

The SRC continues to grow. There is now a staff of eight and an \$8 million budget. How much of that \$8 million is going to the administration of sport instead of to our NWT youth programs? To quote the Northern Journal once again, "There are two problems with all of this. The first is the lack of leadership from the Legislature; the second is the

misguided approach of government where the solution is to keep creating more government."

It is time the GNWT got serious about the effectiveness of our sport delivery system. We will lose our volunteers, our organizers, coaches and managers if we don't. As usual, when that happens, NWT youth will be the losers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GROUND AMBULANCE
AND RESCUE SERVICES

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no denying that I am a huge fan of CBC Arctic Air. In fact, the other day I was watching a rerun and on this rerun we saw a patient being hauled on the back of a quad on a stretcher. Very exciting, exposed to the elements, made for great TV.

It made me start to think. I did question a lot of emergency workers and care workers throughout the Territories. The reality is this is happening. This is not TV. We have many patients that are being hauled on the back of pickup trucks, sometimes on the back of vehicles and some of them in quads. They are being transported from health centres to the airstrips. We also see this happening at accident scenes. We are lacking ambulance services in a grand fashion.

Recently, we have been spending lots of time on health talking about a sunset clause of \$200,000 for Municipal and Community Affairs. That was designed to assist communities for delivering ground ambulance and highway rescue services, but this is just the tip of the iceberg and I'll tell you why. I'm going to take Members down a little snapshot, a little Polaroid, if you will, in terms of what the history of this topic is.

Back in 2007, the Cabinet of the day directed its Ministers of Municipal and Community Affairs and Health and Social Services to develop legislation, policies and funding framework to address the delivery of ground ambulance and highway services in the Northwest Territories. In 2008 an advisory committee was struck and co-chaired by the same two ministries and developed some funding and legislative framework. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in 2009 some of the projected costs coming from some of these findings indicated this could save the day with a \$6 million insertion to protect our public. Six million dollars. We throw \$10 million on a bridge every couple of months and we don't even have a second glance at that, and we're talking about \$6 million. This is a small price to pay.

Since then, there has only been a number of communities that have actually accessed some funding, and in fact only three thus far: Yellowknife,

Hay River and Fort Simpson. It's clear that community governments have come forward and asked them to bring more to the table. The recent NWT Association of Communities has asked for a comprehensive and coordinated system of ground ambulance. Communities need more clarity, more responsibility and government commitment. We need solutions.

It's been five years. Why do residents have to wait any longer? What is the price of mitigating risks on our highways? What is the price of patient safety? But more importantly, what is the price of human life?

You know, it makes for great TV, but I can't wait to see another CBC Arctic Air episode when we join the rest of the 21st Century with proper ambulance service in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACTS ON SURVIVORS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS SYSTEM

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, in view of the anniversary of the public apology of our federal government with respect to the immeasurable harm of residential school survivors and to them and to their families, I'd like to just say today that for sure I'm not an expert or a counselor or anyone who has any credentials in family relations, but I was a child and I am a parent. One thing I do know, it goes against all the laws of nature to take a child away from their parents. The authority of a parent is tempered with love and security in the bond between them. That authority is misplaced when it is given to someone else who does not have that relationship with a child.

We know about the benefits of secure attachment between a child and a parent, and we know about the immeasurable harm when a child is deprived of that formative bond. To add more injury to the situation in the case of residential schools, there was abuse we know that occurred on a large scale. We also know that another thing that added injury to the situation of the removal of these children was undertaken by people who claimed to be the representatives of Almighty God. That creates further confusion as people go forward in their life when they look for a faith in which to call upon any kind of supernatural intervention or support in their life.

I'd like to applaud the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission throughout our country. I had the privilege of attending the hearings on the Hay River Reserve and hear people go forward, witness after witness, and tell their story of what they had experienced. They were friends of mine

that appeared there, that I have known for years and years, but I didn't know their story until they mustered the courage to go before that panel that day and tell that story.

It's very, very difficult to hear of injustice, of discrimination, of intimidation that occurred in such recent history in our country and in our North, but the healing does have to begin somewhere and I believe this is a step towards that. We as a government have an obligation now to support the survivors in every way we possibly can to go on with their lives and to recover from this misplaced policy of this generation and previous generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON N.J. MACPHERSON SCHOOL FUNDRAISING FOR STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past spring the staff and students at N.J. Macpherson School challenged themselves to raise \$15,000 to help Stanton Territorial Hospital. For a kindergarten to Grade 5 school with just over 250 students, that was an ambitious goal.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say not only did the students reach their goal, they surpassed it. They raised just over \$17,000 and I'm extremely proud to say that the school is in my riding of Kam Lake.

After hearing that the Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation is currently raising money for a dedicated area in our territorial hospital for chemotherapy and IV treatments, Tina Drew, a parent at N.J. and one of my constituents, approached the school. She asked if they would consider raising funds for a local organization instead of a national one this year. The school jumped at the opportunity to keep the money here in the Northwest Territories. Just like business is an investment, when people donate to one of our local charities, they are creating a stronger, healthier community and I applaud N.J. Macpherson School for making that decision.

I'd also like to applaud the Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation for spearheading many projects over the years to purchase medical equipment, to support programs and to assist in the development of new initiatives at our territorial hospital. The foundation is dedicated to raising funds to ensure that staff at the hospital have the best tools available to do their jobs and save lives. The Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation is still raising funds for chemotherapy and IV treatment, and I encourage everyone to consider making a donation.

I'd like to thank the staff and parents for helping N.J. reach and surpass its goal, and of course I'd

like to thank the students for working so hard on this project. School isn't all about math and reading, it's also about learning to be a supportive community member and with this event N.J. certainly accomplished that.

This is one of many great community events that N.J. Macpherson held this past year. These students are the future. It's clear they care about the community and are going to help us create a sustainable and vibrant territory well into the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to recognize the following very important visitors from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Commissioner Marie Wilson; Frank Hope, northern regional liaison; Jeannie Maniapik; and Lucy Yakeleya.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Marie Wilson, commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I would just like to say thank you for doing such great work on behalf of all the survivors in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi and welcome. Also the team as well. I would also like to recognize Mr. Anthony Whitford, whose birthday is today. Welcome.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise with great respect and honour to recognize a couple of outstanding Weledeh constituents. First, of course, is Marie Wilson, who is here representing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and all the wonderful work they do. Kudos to them. I'd also like to recognize, of course, Anthony Whitford, who you yourself have outlined his many credentials. Both Weledeh constituents outstanding in their public contributions.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my sister-in-law Lucy Ann Yakeleya. I also recognize Marie Wilson, Frank Hope and Jeannie. Also to a special guy, Anthony Whitford.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also recognize the good work that the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission has been doing. I was able to attend the event in Inuvik and it was really well done. Also Anthony Whitford, who has been a regular at the Assembly and is a mentor of sorts, and my constituency assistant, Maia Lepage. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Tony Whitford, as well, and also add that he is an auctioneer. Thanks, Tony.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to wish welcome to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but more importantly, to have the honour of Mr. Anthony Whitford here with us is always a blessing and, as we found out this last weekend, he has been one of the spearheads for Relay for Life and he's also a cancer survivor.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour always to recognize the Honourable Anthony W.J. Whitford, who is a friend of many and he's looking fantastic. As our colleague Mr. Dolynny said, he is a survivor of cancer. I have seen him with a great spring in his step lately. It's nice to see the old Tony back.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I'd like to welcome all the visitors in the public gallery here today taking an interest in our proceedings. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5-17(3):
MARIE WILSON –
HONOURARY DOCTOR OF LAWS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to acknowledge and congratulate my constituent Marie Wilson on her recent recognition as an Honourary Doctor of Laws by St. Thomas University in New Brunswick. This distinction comes in tribute to Ms. Wilson's lifelong contribution to the quality of public discourse in the North, in Canada and the world. Her work in CBC, our WSCC, and now in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is a model of public service. I invite you to join with me in saluting and congratulating Ms. Wilson on the conferral of this honour.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 116-17(3): SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ABUSE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talk about the residential school students who went to schools outside their communities. I talked somewhat about my uncle. I want to ask – I don't know if it's the Minister of Justice or the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, but maybe I'll ask the Minister of Justice on this one here – about students that did not come back to their communities. There are some families in the communities who are waiting for their son or their brother or their sister. One of their family members has not come back. What is the Department of Justice doing to help the communities and family members to know what happened to those students at the residential school they attended?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not certain, but I will absolutely work with my colleague from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and other individuals throughout Canada, including possibly the representatives from the TRC to find out what the status of that is.

MR. YAKELEYA: I appreciate the Minister taking the question. I wasn't too sure which Minister would take it. I want to continue on with the Minister of Justice. For the students that did not come back from these residential schools, there are stories, there are innuendos, there are assumptions, there are people telling us this is what happened to that little boy or little girl. I want to ask the Minister of Justice if he would look into his department to see where he can look with the staff that he has, to say we want to get down to the bottom of this, what is it that we need to do. Can the Minister provide some kind of a process framework to answer this question?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We've heard the stories as well. They're horrible, obviously. I'm not sure that it is the Department of Justice, solely, that would be responsible for that and, like I said before, I will work with my colleague with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, but we'll certainly also discuss it at Cabinet level and see if there's anything that can be done, or which department would be the responsible department,

or what would be the responsible organization to help.

MR. YAKELEYA: Where can former students of the residential school go to see what can be done if there is a situation where their family member did not come back home and they need to find out what happened to that family member? Where would those people go and who would they call in this government?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I would suggest that you could approach either the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Department of Justice, or the Department of Health and Social Services and we'll try and find a way to work together. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How would people in our communities go about this? You say they can call, but who would they call? How would this be communicated to the people in our small communities? Would it be done on TV, ads, workshops, conferences? How would they know that they can call this number to know where they can get some information? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I don't know off the top of my head, but I'll talk with the Minister of Education later today and hopefully we'll be able to provide the Member with some additional information that will help those individuals. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 117-17(3): PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF HIGHWAY CONDITIONS AND ROAD CLOSURES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation. In recent years we've deployed some modern equipment and means to keep the travelling public informed of current circumstances that would affect their travel plans. Constituents can access websites updating ferry and ice conditions. This was also provided by way of solar-powered road signs alerting travellers of everything from bison on the road to load limits on ice crossings.

Recently, a constituent, well actually, I'll just say it was my husband, drove all the way – he's actually Mr. Bouchard's constituent – to Indian Cabins before he found out the road was closed down there by our border because of forest fires. I think that the idea of using these signs on the outskirts of highways to advise of things affecting the road travel is a good idea. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation if there is any effort or plans within his department to expand the use of these solar-powered signs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we would look at deploying those signs where we need to, but in the advance of technology we're also keeping our website up to date for the travelling public. Oftentimes now that's the first place people look to for information. That is on our website and it's updated, especially with the situation taking place in the Deh Cho and affecting those communities and our roads and our ferry system, it's important that we're updating that continuously. That's one place the Member could possibly look. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: The operative word in the Minister's response is current and updated, because I used to travel the road between Hay River and Yellowknife for many years, and if you went onto the website on the weekends to find anything out about the ferry or the ice road, it wasn't actually updated from Friday at 3 o'clock until Monday morning at 10 o'clock. Has the department undertaken any measures to resolve that so that the information is, in fact, up to the hour and current?

This past week we had people from Fort Simpson that were in Hay River for the track and field championships, and the approaches to the ferry crossings were under water and they had no real way of finding out what the current situation is. Could the Minister respond to that, the current availability of information? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Over the weekend the website was updated on a continuous basis. It was updated because of the situation that was happening with the Liard River. As far as weather, we have somebody on every weekend updating the website. If there are events that are happening in the territory, I would expect that we'd have somebody available to update that website. I can get that level of detail for the Member on how that happens and when it happens. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: The website is one way. There's also a 1-800 number to call for an update. The Minister says that he expects it would happen. We would like to know that it is going to happen, because again, for years when I travelled on that road, the only way to really find out what was going on at Fort Providence was to call Big River Service Station in Fort Providence. That was the only really current information you could get about what was going on there. Could the Minister confirm he expects it would happen on weekends? Can the Minister confirm that there is somebody employed to ensure that information is current at all times? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I will find out for the Member. We also have the 1-800 number, as well,

that people can call. It's important to us that safety is the number one concern here for the travelling public. I will get that information for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Your final, short supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there should be solar-powered signs at the outskirts of every community on the road system and at both of the border crossings coming into the Northwest Territories. If the department needs to procure more solar-powered signs, can the Minister assure me that he will look to northern suppliers? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, we will do that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 118-17(3):
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS TO
SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on questions from my colleague for the Deh Cho last Friday, on the cost on agriculture. The cost of transportation is a major part of nutritious food costs in our communities. By cutting transportation costs, we cut a big and an unnecessary element of the cost. Local food production is clearly the answer.

My question for the Minister of ITI is: Given the community gardens and programs for commercial agriculture expansion and start-up are helpful beginnings, what are the Minister's immediate plans for building on this success, putting needed jobs in the communities through agriculture and reducing the cost of living? Mahsi.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to Mr. Nadli's questions last week, we have done a great deal. We understand the importance of locally grown food. We recognize the importance of processing fish and meat locally and getting it into the local homes. We've been in 29 communities in the Northwest Territories on the Community Garden Initiative and that's through the Growing Forward Fund that the federal government had. Also, I should note, we are advancing some capital investment aimed at replacing the defunct grading station in Hay River for eggs and the production of eggs in our territory. Once that is complete, eggs produced in the NWT will be able to be marketed into the wholesale, retail and food service sectors right here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for those comments. As I also mentioned in my statement on Wednesday, availability of land is a challenge for the expansion of agriculture. In response to my written question of February 16th, the Minister said that ITI will provide municipal governments with expertise, assistance and support in matters related to agriculture as and when requested. That's fine, but what about increasing the supply of agriculture land outside municipalities? What is the department doing to identify and free up some of the vast amount of arable land that could be made available? Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That is a good point, and I believe we need to work collectively. I need to work with my colleague from Municipal and Community Affairs. It could, in fact, be a big part of the Economic Development Strategy that we're going to continue to pursue here in the Northwest Territories, so that we can find ways to grow the agricultural industry here in the Northwest Territories. I agree wholeheartedly with the Member on the importance of getting that sector more pronounced here in our territory, and I'll do what I can as Minister to make sure that that happens. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks again to the Minister for those comments and the commitments. The Territorial Farmers Association is another partner I can think of that reports that access to land is indeed one of the major challenges facing its members. Will the Minister, perhaps in consult with his colleagues, commit to contacting the association and identifying the issues and opportunities to be addressed, and reporting to EDI with a plan for recommended measures? I recognize that this could also become part of the greater Economic Development Strategy, but I think I'd like to follow that track as well. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I've had the opportunity to sit down with the Territorial Farmers Association for a meeting, and I look forward, at the earliest opportunity, to meet with them again as we advance the Economic Development Strategy. I think we will be leaning heavily on organizations like the Territorial Farmers Association for that level of expertise and knowledge when it comes to agriculture here in the NWT and how they feel the government could help out in that regard. Certainly, they will be a part of this as we move forward. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. Really we are talking food security here as well as an economic function. I know we are addressing these things and Anti-Poverty Strategy and other aspects, but food security is really about lower costs. This weekend our local

chicken cooperative would have ended up calling out the roosters. We had to go to sources in Ontario to find out questions we needed answered. Given solutions needed to involve many departments in a strategic cross-departmental approach to food supply, will the Minister commit to development of a food strategy as an integral element of our strategic plans to fight poverty and promote economic development? Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, again, as we move forward, I think whether or not we need a food strategy per se or to be part of a larger piece like the Economic Development Strategy or many of the other support mechanisms that the department has for locally produced food and agriculture in the NWT, it certainly is something worth some consideration, though. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 119-17(3): GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I used the fictitious CBC TV show Arctic Air to depict an issue about emergency response. It has been a reality. In reality, this is actually happening in the Northwest Territories. With that, my question who won the coin toss is the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Has there been a working group established? Have the fire chiefs been involved? Is there work to be done with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and work with other departments such as Health and Social Services on creating some type of archway, some kind of health profession or a trade for emergency medical service providers providing some type of equality in our systems of emergency services throughout the Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There had been a working group that had been established. MACA is part of the working group. Health and Social Services is part of a working group. We do have some assistant fire chiefs that are part of the working group. We are looking at the overall delivery of emergency services across the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging to hear that this is indeed a priority of the government and a priority of the department. Could the Minister indicate as to when the consolidated findings of this working group will be shared with committee here and the Members? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the intent is to have something by December of this year that

we could possibly share. Obviously, there is a lot of work that needs to go into this to make sure we get a product that best serves all the people of the Northwest Territories. By December of this year, we are hoping to have something that we can have a discussion with committee about. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, as indicated in my Member's statement earlier today, some of the earlier planning back in 2009 projected this could cost the taxpayer or the government up to \$6 million to perform. Can the Minister advise if this number has been looked at? Are we close to this number or is it too far down into the future to actually predict? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, \$6.1 million was the initial figure that we used. Once we go through all the planning, the number may rise. We would have to look at all the options and then come back to committee with what probably is closer to a final figure and share that with them, and then we will determine what the next steps are going to be once we do that. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, very encouraging news. I think people listening out there feel that their needs are being met. Until such time as we have policies in place, we have budgets in place, there are communities out there that are in dire need. They need medical transport vehicles to avoid patients being transported in the back of quads, in the back of pickup trucks. Is there any appetite for this department or the government to look at the needs of individual communities, assess them, and do more good now than waiting for some projected budget in the future? Can we assist these communities in the near future? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We do have some right now that we allocate to some communities that apply for it. It helps them with equipment mostly. We have to understand that there's a huge liability issue in trying to provide emergency service in a lot of communities. If they're not qualified, then that would put more residents at risk and put the communities or the individuals in a liability issue. So we have to explore all those options.

There is \$200,000 now that is allocated to a number of communities. As the Member said, we only have three communities that have taken us up on it, but a lot of this is to help with some of the equipment they have in communities. Of course, we want all of our residents to be sure that they'll be transported to health centres safely and the Member pointed out something that he saw on TV, which is actually not far from the truth. We've heard of cases of people being transported in the back of a vehicle, but that's just the community responding

to a situation. Instead of just waiting for something to happen, they make something happen.

So, again, there's a huge liability issue and we have to recognize that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 120-17(3):
PUBLICATION OF
SENIOR MANAGEMENT SALARIES

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister for Human Resources today. I'd like to ask the Minister with regard to a report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations from reviewing the 2009-10 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. At that time both the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the office of the Auditor General had recommended transparency in government, and particularly with regard to funding of dollars within government. It was a recommendation of that report in May of 2011, over a year ago, that this government be proactive and disclose employees, senior management salaries. So I'd like to ask the Minister of Human Resources why it is that we do not publish our senior employees' salaries. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was actually on Government Ops when that report was done. In the Government of the Northwest Territories there are three levels of pay for executive managers: EM1, EM2, EM3. EM1 runs from \$162,000 to \$202,000. EM2 goes from \$180,000 to \$225,000. EM3 is \$198,000 to \$247,000. This is as of April 1, 2011.

I have directed the department to post those on-line. They will be posted on-line similar to all other salaries for all GNWT employees. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you to the Minister for being so proactive. I appreciate that that's going to be posted and I hope the Minister will advise when that's going to happen, but will employees be identified by their salary range? The Minister mentioned three salary ranges. So if I'm interested in a particular employee in a department, will I be able to figure out which salary range he or she falls into? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. I have directed the department to post it on-line the same time we post the current and the new UNW, NWTTA and senior management, do them all at the same time, which should be done as soon as we have ratified the final agreement, the UNW Collective Agreement. So that should be really soon.

No, we won't be posting individuals' salaries. That would be inappropriate and against the conflict of information. But that would be consistent with what we do for all employees. We don't tell anybody what Jane or John Doe in any other profession makes, so why would we do that for our senior management? Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I wasn't referencing a specific individual's salary, but whether it would be possible to find out what range the individual falls into. So do I fit into EM1, 2 or 3?

The other issue that was recommended by the standing committee report from a year ago had to do with employee bonuses. So I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not employee bonuses will be published the same as senior management salaries. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. With respect to the individual positions that my colleague is talking about, there's only about 17 positions that fall into these executive management bands and if we started identifying what positions follow what bands, would be really actually identifying what the individuals make and that would be inappropriate. So we won't be sharing that information. We will only be sharing the ranges.

With respect to what an individual receives as a bonus, we won't be telling anybody what an individual receives for a bonus, but the policies and protocols for how bonuses are identified is public information and we can release what we paid in a year in bonuses, but not by individual. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for that information. I would look forward to seeing the bonus information, whatever it is, hopefully by department or by division.

I'd like to just ask the Minister, the report from a year ago suggested that legislation might be required. I'd like to know from the Minister whether or not he feels legislation is required to make sure that this happens every year. If this Minister is not around, will Ministers coming behind him take the same proactive approach? So do we need legislation, do we need a policy, do we need regulations? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. I don't believe we do. I think now that it's posted, I think that will become standard practice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 121-17(3):

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SUPPORT

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got some questions today for the Minister of Health in regard to his Minister's statement on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission support. In his statement he makes reference to what we fund addictions counselors, on-the-land programs and treatment centres for residents. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what centres he's referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm referring to the one treatment centre we have in the Northwest Territories, Nats'ejee K'eh, and then, when required, people are sent to treatment centres in the South also.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. Can the Minister provide us with the numbers of out-of-territory patients, clients that are constantly going to treatment centres down south and how many different treatment centres down south is he referring to? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. I don't have that information with me here, but I can provide that information to the Member. That's the number of different treatment centres and the number of people attending those treatment centres. No problem. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. Throughout the term of this Assembly, at the beginning I was asking questions in regard to the waiting list of members that need counselling, and in reference to the Minister's statement, Inuvik specifically, there's a three-month waiting list for anybody to get counselling, and with the TRC event even more are happening. So I was wondering if the Minister or his department has addressed this issue in Inuvik and if he's seeing any growing trend in the communities that hosted a TRC event this past year. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Aside from what is already in the budget for community counselling, we are trying to now work with our department and within our department to develop wellness plans with all of the communities. Also, tomorrow there will be a Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan released. We're going to use that plan over the next three years to try to address the backlog that was created by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work, and then also having the federal government really not having enough resources at the communities to address all of the issues that came about from people trying to address their long-term issues due to the residential school. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue that I've been seeing even before I got into the House as a Member. But continuing on, I see some good work also by the Minister of Justice in terms of the NSCC facility. Is the Minister working with the Minister of Justice to help him develop these counselling programs for the inmates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the program at the North Slave Correctional Centre is not yet developed, but anything that this department can do to assist Justice in the development of counselling and the work inside the correctional centres, we are prepared to do. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 122-17(3):
STATUTORY REGULATION FOR
CHIROPRACTIC AND MASSAGE
THERAPY PROFESSIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Member's statement today, I talked about the need for regulation and certainly legislation for the areas of chiropractic and massage therapy. There are a number of groups out there that have this request, such as naturopaths as well. There seems to be some consensus built around chiropractic and massage therapists that legislation could come in and we could develop some regulations to provide some public assurance that the government is watching and making sure that our citizens are protected. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. What is the status of any potential new legislation and regulation to the areas that I have highlighted already? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services is developing an umbrella health and social services professionals act that will regulate a number of professions under one statute. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, that is good news. From the Minister I would like to find out which professionals or particular areas is he studying and considering for inclusion in this particular bill. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, some of the ones – this may not be all of them – that we are looking at are licenced practical nurses, psychologists, medical service providers, and also we are hearing lots of information, getting a lot of information from naturopaths. So there could be quite a few of them under one umbrella. We have

hired some legal people to look at it. We have a contract with them throughout this year and next year to make sure that we are doing this right and that we are not infringing on anybody's legal rights. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I want to specifically note and highlight the fact that the Minister didn't mention chiropractic or massage therapists. I am not suggesting it isn't in his list before him. With that said, would the Minister be willing to provide a detailed list as to whom they have spent time consulting with and when? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that isn't a problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The next big question to this is: Will there be any type of public discussion or development of any type of decision paper to move forward on this particular initiative? If there will be, when can we expect some detail on that particular initiative? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, once the legislative proposal is developed and we share that, we will go through the regular process. We will assume that this one will require a considerable amount of consultation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for the Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 123-17(3):
ENTERPRISE INFRASTRUCTURE
REQUIREMENTS

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, earlier I made a statement on one of the communities that I represent: Enterprise. Enterprise, of course, is aspiring, like every community, to try to be independent and to try and create a local economy so that services at least are available to every citizen in Enterprise. My question is to the Minister of MACA. What support is there from MACA to provide communities to include basic infrastructure such as water supply? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Enterprise has put in a desire to have their own water treatment plant. Our role now is to work with the community, and look at all of the options, and look at some of the different cost factors, and work with them to try to come up with the best deal possible for the community.

MR. NADLI: I wanted to ask the Minister what kind of options there are. Are there at least some parameters to ensure that the community's aspirations are achieved? At the same time,

whether there's a path of at least a workable solution that the Minister can commit to the community in terms of working with them.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We have communicated our desire to work with the community and they have communicated their desire to look at some of the options of establishing their own water treatment plant. The letter that we've received from them, they had laid out some options, and we would like to sit down with them and work on some of those options. If there needs to be some changes made to the way the community is funded, we would have to look at that also. They've made the initial communication that they have a desire to establish their own water treatment plant.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for that. I'd like to ask whether the Minister has discussed with the leadership, in terms of a timeline of how this process could work for all parties to ensure that there is a committed timeline to achieve the establishment of a water treatment plant in Enterprise.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That's one of the options we would have to look at, as far as the timeline goes. We have to explore with the community the different options, as far as the types of water treatment plant. We haven't had that discussion yet so we have to sit down with the community to discuss those options. I think at that time it would probably be best, or appropriate, then to come up with a timeline depending on which system they choose.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit, at some point, to meet with the local leaders of Enterprise to discuss their aspiration of establishing a water treatment plant.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We already know what the community is looking for. Our officials will sit down and have a discussion with them. I'm always happy to meet with the leadership of any community, and if the need arises, then I would be pleased to meet with the leadership of Enterprise. Right now their officials and our officials are trying to iron out some of the details and we look forward to the results of their meetings.

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

QUESTION 124-17(3):
HAY RIVER HEALTH FACILITY
CONSTRUCTION TENDER

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Public Works

and Services concerning the Hay River hospital and the design/build contract that's closed just over a month ago. Does the Minister have any information to provide this House about that public tender?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Glen Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The applications that have come in are being reviewed and we're hoping to have a decision soon.

MR. BOUCHARD: My question to that response would be soon and what kind of timeline soon is.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I imagine it's going to be in the next week or two, and as soon as we have that information and a decision is made, it will be posted on-line and be available for everybody to see, but I will absolutely let the Member know as soon as I know.

MR. BOUCHARD: My next question is as soon as that is completed, does the Minister have any commitments to have a public meeting in the community of Hay River on the building?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'm not sure what the Member means. Does the Minister have a meeting in the community about the hospital, or the department have a meeting in the community about the hospital? The department will be meeting with the successful candidate, or the successful bidder, and they will be working out the details, so I will certainly share that information with the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: I'll ask my question a little differently. Some of the concerns in the community are about what's in the building and what's not in the building, so there is a great deal of concern in the community and that's what I am referring to, is if the department is planning to have a discussion on what is going to be incorporated in the building. It's a design/build, how the building is going to look, and get some feedback from the public on this future building in the community of Hay River that's supposed to represent us for the next 50 years.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The program content and, therefore, the design is actually a responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services, who is responsible for the program. I'm not sure if the department is going to be going into the community to talk about the program content, but I will certainly talk to the Minister of Health and Social Services about what their plans are. Technically the department will be meeting with the builders who are building it based on a design.

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

QUESTION 125-17(3):
STATUS OF GNWT OTTAWA OFFICE
AND NWT DAYS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier and have to do with our dealings with Ottawa. In the past we as an Assembly have gone en masse to Ottawa. We called it NWT Day. We broke into small groups and visited with Ministers. We went to Parliament Hill. We had a reception there. Everybody in Ottawa who met us thought we were really cool, but I don't think we came home with much. I'd like to ask the Minister, in view of all of our government's negotiations with Ottawa, when are we going to re-staff the Ottawa office to coordinate our efforts for the best results when we do make trips to Ottawa.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to advise the Member that we have booked conference rooms or a ballroom in the Chateau Laurier and we will be holding NWT Days at the same time that the Winterlude is happening in Ottawa. We are doing business plans for 2013-2014 at which time, with the support of the Members, we'll be asking for funding to upgrade our Ottawa office.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I noticed in some of the Ministers' statements today they talked about working with Health Canada on various projects. I think that a strong presence by a hired person in the Ottawa office in the past has been a great asset to our government in setting up meetings and keeping their ear to the ground on what's happening there, feeding information back to us, facilitating our efforts in Ottawa. I'd like to ask the Premier, is there a plan at this time to consider staffing that office again with that kind of a person.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: At this time we do have a person in the Ottawa office. We are looking at increasing our presence in Ottawa and we'll be looking for support to get additional resources to a higher level position.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: So the Premier refers to NWT Days in the Chateau Laurier and the Winterlude and so on and so forth. Can I ask who's going to Ottawa? Are we all going to Ottawa? Maybe I wasn't aware of that.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We have had input from the standing committee and they have advised that they want to see the number of MLAs attending be staggered over a four-year period and we will be organizing it accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad to hear that. I would like to see small

groups of MLAs go to Ottawa with a very specific task and an ask, and to come home with a report on the results that they achieve while they're there, as opposed to us all going down there at one time for just kind of a feel-good time. That's very good news. I appreciate the Premier's respect for the input of the standing committee and we'll look forward to the schedule of what we'll be going there for and what we'll be asking for.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That was our intended approach.

I might add that I was invited to attend a Northern Lights Conference in Ottawa where it was organized by Nunavut, Labrador and Nunavik. The reception they had was very well attended by federal Ministers. There were about 20 federal Ministers in addition to the wife of the Prime Minister. We're hoping to have the same kind of attendance from federal Ministers when we organize our NWT Day.

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

QUESTION 126-17(3):
CHANGES TO SENIORS
PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SCALES

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Housing and it continues to deal with the housing rental scale. It's something that I have to continue to address, especially when I'm getting phone calls over the weekend and even just before coming into the House here. I'd like to ask the Minister, the recommendations that Members from this side of the House offered to the Minister and his department, as well as recommendations made from the Seniors' Society to defer the implementation of this policy for seniors, as well as the motion that was made in the Elders Parliament, everybody's saying defer and even take it out of the policy. The Minister's statement said otherwise on Thursday. This new approach, at what length did the recommendations made from us, the Elders Parliament and the Seniors' Society come into effect in developing this new approach that the Minister addressed last Thursday?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my response to questions the other day, I did talk about the fact that there was some concern raised by Members and by the Seniors' Society. We did take some of the recommendations. That's why we decided that we'd implement it over a two-year period with the first being September 1st and the second being July 1st

of next year. I did say the other day that this is something that needs to be done, and it's a question of treating all people across the NWT equally like we all signed up to do in our Members Code of Conduct. That's where we're going with this. To pay \$35 to be all in as far as paying rent goes, I think that's showing a lot of respect in looking after our seniors, where you have seniors that are living in their own houses on fixed income paying up to \$1,500 a month to support themselves. I think this delaying it over two years, obviously, we heard some of the concerns raised by this Assembly.

MR. MOSES: With this new approach over two years, and it's for seniors that live without other adults in their home, the economy is bad, there's less jobs in the communities, high cost of living, in reality we do have adults that are staying with elders. I want to ask the Minister if he has the numbers of the percentage of seniors that are going to be affected where they will have to pay. I'm assuming that because of what I just said, that there might be a high percentage, so they are still going to be paying, getting all our seniors to pay. Does he have a percentage of adults that do live with seniors in the communities?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We do have some percentage where adults are living with seniors. Obviously, if their household income is low, then most seniors would be paying minimum rent. I think on average we have about 90 percent of our seniors that are going to be paying minimum rent starting September 1st, so obviously it's half of what we were initially going to charge, and then July 1st of next year we'll go to full implementation. We do have some numbers; I don't have them with me. I will provide them to committee. Ninety percent of our seniors would be paying minimum rent.

MR. MOSES: The reason I asked that last question is sometimes we have caregivers, as well, who are taking care of our seniors, and if they are an adult staying in the home, then it's going to affect the income and the amount of expenditures these elders do have. Since the statement, I guess, or even since we've been bringing up this issue in the House, has the Minister or his department contacted, or tried to attempt to contact, the NWT Seniors' Society to get further input or any regional local elder committees, for that matter, to get their input on this policy and how it's going to affect them in their communities, especially the small communities? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We've done our homework and we know how this is going to affect seniors in the communities. As I said the other day, it will affect them to the tune of \$35 a month starting September 1st, and full implementation on July 1st. One of the reasons we had the \$1,000 exemption for seniors was the fact that we recognize a lot of

them are on a fixed income. We have to be very careful that when they have adults in the home, again, I think we were talking today and there was some mention made of elder abuse. This sometimes can lead to elder abuse, where you have adults in the housing that are working and taking advantage of the fact that the seniors are not paying any rent. Then they move out and the seniors are left with high arrears. That's happened in the past, so we have to be very careful with that. We have to make it so that if there are adults in the house that are making an income, then the household income would have to be assessed and they would pay rent accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to deferring this, I know there were recommendations to defer until further consultation. Some of us weren't expecting the \$35 to be implemented on September 1st, which will affect some of our seniors in the small communities. Would the Minister be willing to look at that approach again and have it at zero until proper consultation is made with a lot of our communities that will be affected with the high cost of living, especially up in the Beaufort-Delta region where the cost of living is extremely high? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We have committed to zero until September 1st. On September 1st the \$35, or half of what they would have initially been paying, will kick in.

In response to the Member's question before, we have made contact with the NWT Senior's Society. We have offered up a meeting. We got a response. Actually, it was this morning. They're quite busy right now with summer coming on, so we're going to try to make some time. But it is going to be zero until September 1st. September 1st until July 1st of next year they'll be paying half. That will get them acclimatized to having to pay rent, because of not having to pay for the last 16 years. Then July 1st of next year, full implementation will kick in. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 127-17(3):
RECRUITMENT OF NWT
MEDICAL STUDENTS POST-GRADUATION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'd like to ask the Minister, does he know how many NWT students are currently studying in the field of medicine to become medical doctors in the south at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 11 medical students that have taken the medical student bursary. There could be a few more that haven't taken the bursary. That means that they're probably not intending to return to the territory, but there are 11 that have taken the bursary. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Does the Minister of Health and Social Services know how many NWT residents who've gone out and studied to become medical doctors have actually returned to serve in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I was not able to get that information together today. I will agree to provide that information to the Member as soon as I have that information. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I'm sure the Minister is keenly aware of the fact that we're very interested in having resident physicians in Hay River, so these numbers and statistics are very much of interest to the Members who represent Hay River and to the people of Hay River.

I'd like to ask, of the 11 medical students that are in southern Canada studying now that have taken the bursary and will come back for return of service, is there anything else in the plans or in the works at this time that would further enhance the incentive to return to the North or support these medical students in their studies. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: There is a plan in place where we intend to actually visit the students that are getting close to completing. Of the 11 students, two of them are in first year, two are in the second year, one student is in the third year, we have two students in the fourth year, two students in the fifth year, and two students have completed the program and will be returning to the NWT for some intern work. The plan is as these students are getting close to completing the program, that we're going to visit them – by we, I mean the Department of Health and Social Services – to have that discussion to see if there's a possibility of placing them in the Northwest Territories to practice. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: When the Minister or departmental officials visit these students who are in various stages of completion of their studies to become medical doctors, when they have these meetings, I would like to ask, will the Minister or his officials be encouraging any of these students when they graduate to come back on the return of service. Will you be sharing them or are you going to put them all in Yellowknife? That's what I'm trying to ask you, to get to the point. We would like to see some of them in the regions, not just all in the

capital, and I'd like to know will that be part of the discussion. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I have asked the Joint Leadership Council, that's the chairpersons and the public administrators of all the health and social services authorities, and they've had a discussion with their CEOs to put a recruitment strategy together for physicians. Within that recruitment strategy we are asking each of them to develop various ways where they can recruit physicians to the regions. Some initial discussions we are having with the health and social services authorities are fairly interesting, and we're hoping that we will have a plan that we can move forward with by September, or we will have a plan that we're moving forward with in September. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the attempt on a national basis to distribute the human resource, I guess, of medical professionals amongst regions where they're in most demand, and that being rural and remote regions, will the department consider any different inducements for students graduating, to come and serve and do their medical practice in a smaller community, as opposed to what they would get paid and what incentives they would have to serve in Yellowknife? It's a commonly employed practice. Could there be extraordinary inducements for them to locate outside of the capital? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Any inducements will not be monetary. It would be things like looking at doctors that may be interested in doing things that are common in the smaller areas. I know that one of the CEOs was going to websites where individuals were going hiking and canoeing, like, outdoor adventure-type websites to see if there were doctors that were going there on a regular basis that might want to come to the Northwest Territories because there is a lot of that to offer in the Territories. There are a lot of wild outdoor adventures to be able to be offered in the various regions. This is one thing that we have looked at. We're asking each of the authorities to develop a recruitment strategy that's creative to try to bring people. As I indicated in the House previously, plan A is to bring people into the regions, doctors, physicians into the regions; and plan B would be to try to create a territorial pool within the Northwest Territories, whether it be in Yellowknife or Hay River. If Hay River's able to attract, Fort Smith is able to attract doctors that will work in other regions, then they're going to be open to all of those various methods. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 8, written questions. Mr. Hawkins.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 9-17(3): SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

Would the Minister supply a detailed analysis on the small capital projects budget for the budget years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, which specifically aggregates the following details by departmental budget:

1. Items requested in the actual budgets and the budgeted amount requested for each item in the capital plans;
2. The supplier and actual cost of each item purchased;
3. The date of purchase and delivery date of each item; and
4. The reasons why any requested items were not purchased, and an explanation of what happened to the financial commitment for each of the items requested.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 27-17(3): SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2012-2013

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled "Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013." Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 28-17(3): NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ECONOMIC REVIEW, 2011-2012

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "NWT Economic Outlook Report, 2011-2012." Thank you.

TABLED DOCUMENT 29-17(3): SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 7, 2012, TO MAY 22, 2012

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I am tabling a document pursuant to Section 5 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. I wish to table a summary of Members' absences for the period of February 7, 2012, to May 22, 2012. Thank you.

Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Bromley.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 12-17(3): MENTAL HEALTH COURT DIVERSION MEASURES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 14, 2012, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services work cooperatively to bring forward a plan for introduction of diversion measures including specialized courts in integrated case management for review in the 2013-14 business plans;

And further, that the same departments provide the Standing Committee on Social Programs with a work plan at the earliest opportunity that will describe how this objective will be achieved, and that reflects the individual departments' responsibilities in achieving this goal, on which to base accountability;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 6: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2012-2013

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, I will move that Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

BILL 7:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
JUDICATURE ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, I will move that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 8:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
SECURITIES ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, I will move that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Securities Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Abernethy. Item 17, motions. Mr. Bouchard.

Motions

MOTION 10-17(3):
APPOINTMENT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
CARRIED

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS Section 23.(1) of the Human Rights Act provides that the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appointment a director of human rights to carry out the responsibilities set out in the act;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management is tasked with recommending an individual to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make a recommendation to the Commissioner;

NOW THERE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Ms. Deborah McLeod of Yellowknife be appointed as director of human rights during good behaviour for a term of four years by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories as recommended by the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER, that the Speaker be authorized to communicate the effective date of appointment to the Commissioner.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION 11-17(3):
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly, on October 20, 2005, resolved to formally observe May 26th as the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation in support of our communities, families and individuals who endure the impacts of a residential school system;

AND WHEREAS the objectives of the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation are to:

- celebrate a positive, collective healing and reconciliation movement within our families, communities, churches and government on May 26th each year;
- educate ourselves and other Canadians about our collective history of government policies which impacted Aboriginal communities and other ethnic groups; and
- develop commemoration sites and encourage communities to join in the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has a mandate to learn the truth about what happened in the residential schools and document the truth of what happened by relying on records held by those who operated and funded the schools, testimony from officials of the institutions, and experiences reported by survivors, their families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential schools;

AND WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission held, and continues to hold, hearings throughout the Northwest Territories, allowing survivors to tell their stories, share their pain and educate all Canadians about a sad and unjust part of our collective history;

AND WHEREAS June 11th is the anniversary of the Prime Minister's full apology on behalf of Canadians for the Indian residential schools system;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Legislative Assembly thank the members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada for the work they have done in the Northwest Territories and across Canada;

AND FURTHER, that the Legislative Assembly honour the survivors who have shared their suffering with great dignity in order to promote healing and reconciliation.

---Applause

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have jotted down a few notes. I will say some more later on to this motion.

From the early '60s through the late '70s, never have I imagined that a government, let alone people who would one day want to observe a day in the life of a student of a survivor of a residential school, like me who grew up in such an institution. There are many me's in this situation.

Like I said earlier, when I was sitting home this weekend, we are the ones who made it out. As the saying goes, only the strongest survive, and we also had enough of carrying the whole world on our shoulders and we need to let it go and let's get on with life. That's why we are honouring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They are providing one of those avenues that allows us, and for this we say thank you to those who are involved with truth and reconciliation. We say thank you for the ones who fought for us. We say thank you for the ones who told us to speak up. We say thank you for the ones who told us to talk publicly and to say what it's like for them. For that we say thank you for those who encouraged us.

May 26th, Mr. Speaker, should be marked in all of our government institutions as a day to stop for a moment and to think of families, friends and the ones who aren't here today with us. We need to honour, and we need to honour knowing those persons, because they went through what we went through. Every time you think back of a residential school, we think of names and we acknowledge the past and you have to move on, Mr. Speaker. Enough is enough.

This government, the federal government especially have been pushed by the former students of residential schools. We pushed them to educate the bureaucracy about what happened. We pushed them to let them know what kind of policies at one time was to believe was right, only to find out later on, as we got more educated, it was to get rid of people like me and get rid of the native people of everything. They even went so far as stealing our children and only to return them to their homes as strangers.

The federal government made the apologies four years ago, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was formed to hear the truth of what really happened in the schools and to record the experience of these schools. The cloak of darkness has been lifted and we must keep this cloak up as we need to allow the light to shine in these dark places of our souls to begin the path of forgiveness

and reconciliation and to allow our communities to heal.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand here because of my will to live and my thanks to many people who have helped me and, of course, my mom and my grandparents. There are thousands of survivors in our communities, thousands who need a pat on the back and the recognition for being the ones who have gone to residential schools. We need to say thank you to those students for breaking trail for us. We need to say thank you, thank you, so that we can enjoy what we have today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Motion is in order. I'll allow the seconder to speak. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased and honoured to be able to second this motion. The issue of residential school is a chapter of Canadian history, of northern history, and it's also a chapter of the lives of many of us that are here today. I look around this House and I think I see about eight or nine of us that went to residential school. I was 12, so that's 49 years ago.

I'd like to thank the commission for the work that they've done bringing this issue to focus and helping us all embark upon a journey of healing and reconciliation, and of forgiveness, as my colleague indicated earlier. Hopefully, for all of us it's possible, of course, for closure at some point. So as Mr. Yakeleya said, we can move on, we can acknowledge and place this experience that we've all lived through – and for some of us our parents and even our grandparents lived through – in its perspective and not allow it to control our lives.

So it's an honour to stand here. I acknowledge and pay my respect and honour to all of the other folks that went through residential school, the survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I've chosen over my life to try to focus on what I think is one of the very positive aspects from my experience, and that is the very many good, life-long friends that I made in residential school and that I have to this day. Some are sitting here beside me and it was the good part. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. Mr. Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand today to support this motion on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories and my fellow Cabinet Ministers. The residential school system has had long-lasting effects on the people of the Northwest Territories, their families and their communities, and on Aboriginal people across Canada. Generations of children were separated from their families at a young age. They often lost their language and their

culture. They sometimes suffered abuse. Instead of growing to be strong, healthy peoples and good parents, they struggled with addictions and mental health issues.

All the Members of this House know friends and family who attended residential school. Some of us attended them ourselves. We have firsthand knowledge of how people's lives have been touched by the experience of the residential school system. The effects have been far-reaching and passed on to our families and communities, even to those who never attended residential school. We still see the results in our health and social services system and in our correctional system.

The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the negative ways that the residential school experience has affected our people. We know that healing is essential if we want to have healthy, educated people contributing to a strong Northwest Territories.

Healing is not possible without true understanding. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is playing a vital role in promoting healing in the Northwest Territories and across Canada. Through its work gathering statements from those affected by residential schools, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is helping people learn what happened at residential schools.

Almost a year ago the commission held its northern national event in Inuvik. The event included sharing panels, sharing circles and private statement gathering, as well as daily expressions of reconciliation. These were important activities that have helped promote understanding, reconciliation and new relationships with our Aboriginal peoples.

Healing is a lifelong journey and can often be difficult. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to supporting our people in their healing journey. In October 2005, the 15th Legislative Assembly passed a motion officially recognizing May 26th as the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation. We are still the only government in Canada to officially recognize this day. As Members have heard this afternoon, the government continues to offer support to all those who are affected by the residential school experience. We provide mental health and addictions services across the territory and we will be working with communities to develop wellness plans to support community designed wellness programming. Later this year, the North Slave Correctional Centre will be the first correctional facility in the country to have a Truth and Reconciliation Commission come in and record statements from residential school survivors. Education, Culture and Employment has developed a new curriculum, focusing on the history and legacy of residential schools that will be introduced in the fall.

Officially recognizing the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is another way that the Government of the Northwest Territories can support our residents in their healing journey, and make sure that all people learn the truth of what happened in residential schools. I and my colleagues wish to express our thanks to the commission and will stand in support of this motion today.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission does deserve to be recognized for their truly incredible amount of hard work here in the Northwest Territories. There is a lot to do yet. I'm excited that we can stand in this House, have a presentation with them and to commend them for their hard work.

I know that as I travel to the communities in the North, especially to my communities in the Nahendeh, that people were excited to see them and I think the excitement was about a chance to be heard and for their stories to be heard. Their role is like ours as MLAs. I think that they do want to make a difference in the people's lives with so many people impacted in all the regions throughout Canada.

I'd like to concentrate on some of the positive things in the Ministers' statements today, talking about getting out to the jails and having the residential school system and syndrome explained in our schools with the curriculum change. All those little things make a difference in our people's lives, and they should be commended on that and the many other great things that should be coming out as they complete their work.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to rise and thank the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that has done some tremendous work to bring to light the experiences of our people that have gone through the residential school.

I, too, went through the system. I kind of wanted to shed light in terms of some looking-forward philosophy.

One of the things that has really created a big imprint in my life is just re-learning the aspects of our culture. One thing that's very prominent in my mind is the legend of Yamoriah and the story of creation and how this land was created. I always felt that at some point in our lives, as we go forward embracing this culture and our past, that at some point in our lives, whether it's this generation or the future generations, that we will become giants, like the two brothers that graced this land and created a lot of the paths and trails that we lead. Eventually

our people will become giants and serve in this society and try to help out this world.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. I'll allow the mover of the motion to have closing remarks. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say thank you to the honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger, for seconding this motion. Mr. Miltenberger, I recall, said, I think it was in 2005, seven years ago, I remember having this discussion in 2005 and at that time it was very emotional, very charged, and very good.

The Premier did say that we are the only government in Canada to recognize this day and I want to say something about this government. It's an honour to be amongst you as my colleagues, to say we're still the only government, we are leaders up here, believe it or not, in the eyes of Canada, that we can take a step forward, as Mr. Nadli said, and become giants and say we forgive and want to move on. Truly, in the eyes of Canada, there's a people, survivors around here, as Mr. Miltenberger said, there are four, five, six, seven of us that grew up in the system, for good or bad, for right or wrong, we know the experience. We became pretty good in sports. So good some of us want to be NHL hockey players or basketball players. Some of us even met our sweethearts and married them there. We had family. We have family right across the North. We have family from Tuk, Sachs, Deline, the Wells, Providence, Simpson. We have brothers and sisters. We grew up with them. That's the beauty of this institution. When Mr. Miltenberger says he wants to look and try to see the good side of it, that's what I look at today. That's what I look at today.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is helping us. They are telling us the strong message that you're okay. Those messages are pretty powerful when you're five years old or six years old and told that you're no good. Don't speak your language. Those messages go right to the core of who we are and hurt us as we grow up. We have to keep working on ourselves. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is doing that. Just go to our jails and you'll see the victims. The victims that worked all their lives on not being good enough. They are so bad that we have to put them in jail. Go through that system.

Today I'm very proud to be here in the House amongst my colleagues, and putting this painful, painful past behind us. It feels good. I feel good about what we are about to achieve. We are reaching a turning point in history of each of us, each and every one of us. A few years back I said we took the leap, we started sharing our pain and our humiliating experiences at the residential schools. When our whispers grew into a roar, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, like I said,

was founded by the survivors. We needed to give voice to our truth and nothing but the truth. Can the government handle our truth?

There is a turning point in our history as well. Through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, all Canadians are learning about the human cost of national policies towards Aboriginal people, other people, and education, institutionalized racism, and the oppressions that are black marks of the worst kind and Canadians are ashamed of it.

There has been an official apology from the Prime Minister of Canada four years ago, something we as survivors believed would happen and that did happen.

Believe in your dreams and don't let anyone steal your dreams. What we can be proud of as Canadians, as Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people, is that today, together we are facing history. We are brave enough, as a nation, to be honest with ourselves and the world, about our past and for what we want the present to be and our path to the future. The stories of the residential schools will go into our history books. We are already working on that here in the Northwest Territories along with Nunavut.

We will, all of us, all Canadians, look back on the residential school era as a terrible low point, like the low points of human wars. Like Martin Luther King, we Aboriginal people have a dream. We see our children's children as well educated in their own tradition and the histories and the language, and the western knowledge, as people call it. We will govern ourselves within Canada. We will share. It is our way. It is our law as told by a great leader Yamoriah, who symbolizes the beaver, the pelts, and the arrows, and the Bear and the Mackenzie rivers banks flow through Tulita. This is more than just a dream. It is happening. We will say to our grandchildren, see how far we have come? We want to see how far you can go.

That, my friends, is partially the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I thank the commission and their staff for all the work they have done, the planning, the listening, the encouraging, the enabling, the healing.

I am so proud of the people who are speaking out and the courage they have shown. I thank them all right here in my heart. People like Lawrence Thrasher, who was the first person to speak at the TRC hearing in Tuktoyaktuk. He was a good gospel singer and he sang at that hearing right from his soul. People had just been hanging around thinking about the awful things they had lived through, and the abuse that was going on that has ripped out of the residential school. I want to quote Lawrence's words that day: "Somebody needs help here today too. We know it and I say it's time to release. It's my Inuvialuit people. Time to be bold and to be brave. Time to be light and start a new life."

Lawrence passed away not even two weeks ago. He knew, like we know, that it's a long road that we are travelling. We are far from it. There is a lot of healing yet to be done. Different people in different communities are at different stages of their journey. We have to support them. We have to be strong in our commitment to this.

I do want to thank the ones who spoke up in times when residential school wasn't the hot topic like today, to thank the parents for helping us when we didn't know what lies ahead of us, and to the ones who gave their lives for me and all the survivors to stand here today. I do want to thank this government for recognizing the residential schools and to be an example to the rest of all of Canada, that as a government we do recognize our people. For that I thank you for this special day.

I ask for a recorded vote.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member is seeking a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Blake, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dolynny, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand. Eighteen yes, zero no, zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Colleagues, we're going to take a 30-minute break in the Great Hall to meet with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I urge everybody to come out and visit a little bit. Thank you very much.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Item 18, first reading of bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 5: LEGAL AID ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 5, Legal Aid Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is non-debatable. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 5 has had first reading.

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-17(3), Commissioner's Opening Address: Creating the Conditions for Success; Tabled Document 17-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 7, 2010-2011; Tabled Document 18-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2010-2011; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act; Committee Report 1-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 2-17(3) Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Okay, Members, I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. The Speaker has put us in Committee of the Whole and listed off all the documents that are before us. I would like to ask what is the wish of the committee today. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Committee wishes to review Tabled Document 27-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): We've had a break so we will just proceed with our business at hand. Mr. Miltenberger, with your opening remarks, please.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am here to present Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013. This document outlines a net increase of \$4.601 million in operations expenditures for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The major items included in the supplementary estimates are:

1. \$250,000 for the Department of Finance to provide appropriation authority to transfer funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Heritage Fund.
2. \$200,000 for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to continue the Ground Ambulance Program.

3. \$900,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services to provide funding to increase prevention and promotion activities in 2012-13.
4. \$367,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services and \$49,000 for the Department of Justice to support initiatives that support the design and implementation of phase 3 programming and evaluation of past activities of the Family Violence Action Plan.
5. \$215,000 for the Department of Justice for funding for the implementation of a pilot alcohol and drug treatment program at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre.
6. \$1.7 million for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to increase funding for alternative energy initiatives in 2012-13.

I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses to the witness table.

For the record, Mr. Miltenberger, could you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have with me the deputy minister of Finance, Mike Aumond; and deputy secretary to the FMB, Sandy Kalgutkar.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. General comments. Seeing no general comments, we're ready to move to the detail. I'll ask the Members to turn their attention please to the Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, and turn to page 3 of the document. The Department of Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$250,000. Total department. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, welcome to the Minister and the department here today. I can tell you that the committee here and Regular Members are quite pleased with the fact that the Department of Finance has come forward to, I guess, commence the beginning of the Heritage Fund in a way that was meant for the people of the Northwest Territories.

My first question has to deal with now that we've seen some commitment in this, and I know we're waiting for some of the devolution pieces of the puzzle to come forward. Can the Minister indicate, is there a plan of action with further funding, and if so, what is that formula? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. The \$250,000 will be ongoing, so it will be another \$250,000 next year until we come to some greater certainty with devolution and other potential revenue streams. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, again, we do appreciate the Department of Finance recognizing the need to commence the starting point for this fund. Given the fact that we have very low interest rates and the return on investments in the investing world is somewhat questionable, can the Minister indicate as to what vehicle and what type of vehicles will this money be invested to accrue the highest possible return for the people in the Northwest Territories?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, I'll just make a couple of comments and I'll ask Mr. Kalgutkar to provide some of the technical detail. We are going to ensure that this fund is very carefully invested, that it's protected. It's been put away for enough time to accrue some value. So we're not going to be chasing after any high-risk investments, but I'll ask Mr. Kalgutkar to speak to some of the technical detail. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Kalgutkar.

MR. KALGUTKAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is right; it's going to be invested in fairly conservative instruments like very high-grade investment stocks, as in accordance with our investment regulations. The Heritage Fund Act does require the Department of Finance to develop regulations, once we start making investments into the fund. So we will prepare those and have the committee review those before making any investments that committee wants to review.

In terms of some additional information, if we continue to invest \$250,000 a year annually, at the 10-year checkpoint the act requires that Assembly do a 10-year review of the fund. We will have built up about \$2.6 million in principal and interest in the fund. After 20 years, we will have built up about \$5.6 million of interest and principal into the fund. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Kalgutkar. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, again, I appreciate the level of detail. Can the department indicate if

there was a target level interest accrual for the first year of this fund?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We are aiming at 1.2 percent.

MR. DOLYNNY: As mentioned by Mr. Kalgutkar, there are various investment monies or investment opportunities that this money will be put in under, as they said, a guidance or profile. Can the department indicate who advises this investment? Will Regular Members have the opportunity to be part of the investment strategy and help coordinate a stronger thinking tank, so to speak, with this money in the future? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, Mr. Kalgutkar indicated we will be coming back with the regulations. We will be reporting on the fund. It's put away for 20 years. The whole intent of doing that is to keep it as politically tamperproof as possible. We want to keep that in mind as we move forward. We will have some role for ourselves, but this will be done according to the standard practice of managing our investments within the policy framework and regulations that are going to be set for this Heritage Fund. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Correct me if I am wrong; I heard that this will not be reviewed for a period of 10 years. Is that correct, Madam Chair?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, this fund will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, but there are some built-in checkpoints in the bill. It is put away for 10 years. There is a major review after 10, but it's going to be monitored and reported on on an annual basis.

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, I have one final question. Does the department have any plans of action should interest rates rise exponentially which we don't hope? But if they do, does the department have the flexibility within the profile of investing to take advantage of interest rate fluctuations should interest rates rise appropriate during the course of any given year for investing?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Next I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am very happy to see this money being submitted to the fund, contributed to the fund this year. I think the Minister would agree it's a sort of token amount. We want to get started. Will the Minister be coming forward with a program of more significant contributions starting next year? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, we have agreed and we are going to put in \$250,000 a year. We are going to come up with the business planning process that's starting. Again, if at the end of the day the consensus is – I'm not sure what the Member has in mind with significant – but if that is the end result of the decision of this Legislature, we will look at that. But going forward at this point, we have \$250,000 a year ongoing. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, the Minister raises a good point. For example, we had \$2.3 million worth of diamonds alone leaving the territory in 2011, so that sort of thing indicates that resources are clearly leaving. In terms of investing in the future, the opportunity is now. I think on the area of investment, I appreciate the suggestion that that will be brought to committee. I think we would certainly want it to be an ethical investment. If there were ways to support investment in the Northwest Territories and so on, those things would be of interest. Is there a body of regulations developed for the fund or is that plan to be done? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, as we indicated to Mr. Dolynny, that work is being undertaken. We will be bringing it back. I will make sure that committee has involvement in development of those regulations so that we all have confidence that we have the right structures and regulatory processes in place. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. We are on page 3. Department of Finance, operations expenditures, deputy minister's office, not previously authorized, \$250,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$250,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 4, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, activity, public safety, not previously authorized, \$200,000. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. It was a pleasure to see this amount being reinstated into the Ground Ambulance Program due to a sunset. My question, though, to the department is not so much the fact that this has been reinstated, but the fact that these monies were somewhat challenged by communities to access, whether they were complex in nature, whether the application process was not clear. Has the department made provisions to make sure that these monies are more easily available, maybe better definitions or better accessibility protocols for community-based organizations to acquire? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Originally this money was slated to sunset because we thought this would just be a temporary program until we can work out the details for a full-blown ambulance service once we did all the work, but it was committee's wish that we reinstate this money. We are still a little ways off from coming forward with another plan on providing a wider scale of service.

As far as the application process goes, the communities know the drill. They have a pretty good idea of how they can access this money. However, I will commit to the Member that I will do some research into the application process to see if we can have more communities accessing this money. We have three right now, I believe, and there's still some money that we're left. So I'm not sure why the other communities are not coming forward. Maybe there's concern about the liability, but I'll do some research and I will communicate with the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Next I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I think this money... I think it's a huge opportunity to expand the guidelines and parameters around communities accessing it. I think some of the concerns I heard from the fire department in Fort Simpson that usually access this fund is that the parameters are so strict that they couldn't find a way to utilize it. They did manage to utilize it, Madam Chair, but as we go forward with the parameters, they're so tight that the next year they have to pretty much apply for the same program and the department says, well, you already used that for that guideline already.

So it's a huge opportunity and I think all Members on this side know that we must continue supporting our firefighting and emergency services. So I think it's a huge opportunity and I look forward to that dialogue where we can streamline and expand the guidelines and parameters so that all of our communities can access this funding to assist their emergency services, Madam Chair. Just rather a comment; well, actually there's the question of when can we have that discussion.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. This money was put back in the budget for this year. So I'll defer to Minister Robert C. McLeod in terms of timelines. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. The earliest that we would be able to have some dialogue on this – and this would give us the summer to do some work on this – I think would

probably be this fall when all Members get back together again. So if that's acceptable to the Members, then it's something I will work in the department to see if we can have something put together to sit down with committee in the fall time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. I think that if the Minister can commit to do that, then certainly going with the old guidelines and procedures it's just probably a non-starter right now and I think the best use of this money is once we have that discussion, then we can certainly roll it out to the communities. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you for that comment, Mr. Menicoche. Next I have Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just have a brief comment as well. I do support this and I'm glad to see that this amount is back in Municipal and Community Affairs. Obviously, Hay River is one of the communities that has accessed this funding in the past, and I believe we will continue to because we have an active fire department that's interested in accessing these funds. So it is a pity that it couldn't be more.

We do still see lots of pressures in the community of Hay River in the fire department that maybe what we see as more of a territorial issue. So the more funding that we can receive from the territorial government on ambulance and fire department and equipment would be beneficial.

I just wanted to make the fact that we are one of the communities that supported this concept and one of the communities that access this funding. So I appreciate the department putting that back in there.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard, for that comment. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, activity, public safety, not previously authorized, \$200,000, total department not previously authorized, \$200,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed, thank you. Page 5, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$1.267 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My first question on the Healthy Families program, I see a healthy amount is budgeted for an expansion of the Healthy Families program. I believe late in the 16th Assembly, the commitment was made to expand the Healthy Families program every year and I assume that that was on the schedule to be

expanded again this year. I'm happy to see that, but I'm wondering why we're pulling this from new dollars when I think that was a plan to do it within the budget and these new dollars were to actually expand what was intended in the budget.

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

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The money that the Member was referring to was actually sunsetted, much like the ground ambulance money that we spoke to earlier. So that's why we're having to find new money to provide funding for this program.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I assume by sunsetted Mr. Aumond means the department decided not to spend that money this year, that was GNWT dollars. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Sunsetted, there was a date tied to the money after which the money in that program would lapse and that's what happened in this case. So as Mr. Aumond indicated, new money was put in as a result of the discussions in this House. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess my point is that it seems very inefficient to decide on priorities and start programs and expenditures and then drop them so that the next budget review you have to have the hassle of a battle to get dollars reinstated there, and they're termed new dollars instead of existing dollars simply because they decided to drop it. So I guess I'm questioning the process here and suggesting it's not helpful.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. Similar to the Heritage Fund contribution, this money will be going into the base and there's no time bar, date attached to this. So it's going to be an ongoing funding.

I'll point out, as well, that we're now moving into, as we conclude this session, full bore into the business planning session cycle for 2013-14 and we'll be in a position to have the long and fulsome discussions that haven't been available this time because we were playing catch-up with the start of a new government and we won't have the compressed time frames. So business plan will be before committee. The capital plan will go to the committees at the end of this month and in the fall we'll have the business plans discussions. We'll be starting with committee to hopefully be concluded over the months leading up to February 2013. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the comments from the Minister. I am glad to hear that it's part of the A base now. I assume that means that the Cabinet cannot sort of whimsically sunset it and it will be there for future years. So I appreciate that.

On the Cancer Strategy, the department is working with the Canadian Partnership, and again, it seems like this is an ongoing program and yet the same phenomenon. We assume that with ongoing programs we continue our participation and the new dollars are meant to enhance programs or new programs. Could the Minister tell me what the situation is in this case? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This funding as well is ongoing.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. What was their funding for this program in the past?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. I don't have that level of detail here, so I'll commit to get that for the Member.

MR. BROMLEY: We don't know if this is some fancy footwork or whether these are actually new dollars or simply old programs being re-profiled as new dollars. That's the concern. I would appreciate that additional information that would address that concern from the Minister.

On the early childhood intervention amount, I note that we are collaborating with the Health and Economic Research Institute. Quick work to arrange that in just a few days. I appreciate that. During the 16th Assembly, Social Programs did do extensive work on the Child and Family Services Act, and in fact had three national experts working with us on the report and recommendations. Is this work following up on that, essentially taking us to the next step based on those recommendations?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'll defer to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The \$75,000 is to fund research into the best practices of early childhood interventions, specifically in collaboration with the Health and Economic Research Institute, to develop a best return on investment for Early Childhood Development Strategy.

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

MR. BROMLEY: I guess my question still stands there. I'm trying to figure out if we're trying to reinvent the wheel or building on the costly work we've already done.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Trying to reinvent the wheel. No. I think this is some ongoing work and so this was part of what we're trying to expand.

Overall, all of these items were to expand the prevention and promotion that was deemed to be cut on some of the items that were sunset or transferred to another department. We're trying to respond to committee's request on some of these issues and this was a part of it. I don't see this in the mains for this year and I don't have the information from the mains for the previous year. I'm not sure if this is something that was ongoing, but I think this would be something that was new that we're moving into.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the Minister's remarks there. I guess my last question is on the Minister's forum of addictions. I'm a little bit surprised at the budget there. I know committee travelled extensively for the Wildlife Act and certainly didn't run up a bill like that. I'm wondering if there's an explanation for that cost.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The majority is definitely travel. We think that this is an item that is worthy of doing. We have, as part of the Minister's forum, the department's Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan. It's an element within that plan. What we're trying to do is get in to have at least all of the members of this forum to go into at least half of the communities across the territory to make sure that we are trying to spend some money on prevention, so that we spend the money in the right places so that in the future we're deferring or we will avoid health costs. We're saying this is an upfront investment that will pay dividends in the future. We think this is what it's going to cost us. If it costs less, then we won't use all the money, but at this time this is what we felt would be the appropriate amount for this kind of work.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Next I have Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's pleasing to see that we're moving our promotion and prevention budget from the 1.4 percent to its target, I guess, in the life of this Assembly to that magic 3 percent. I guess it's baby steps in nature. I think the Social Programs committee is very appreciative of that.

Healthy Families, it looks like there's going to be a breakdown of about \$250,000 or a quarter million dollars. Can I get some more explanation? Is this proposed budget going to be mostly going into small communities more so in the Sahtu? Is this where only this money is going to be beneficial, is into the Sahtu area?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. For the record, Mr. Miltenberger, could you just put on the record that you're going to refer the question to the Minister and then we'll start another sequence of questions? Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I apologize. I refer this question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is the last region that doesn't have a Healthy Families program. We have gone from the original communities, which I don't have right now but I think are Fort Smith, Hay River, Behchoko, Yellowknife, and then we're expanding into the Deh Cho, by having a Healthy Families program in Fort Simpson, with satellite offices or satellite programs, in Fort Providence and Fort Liard. Then we're expanding into the Beaufort-Delta and Inuvik with a satellite program in Fort McPherson. This is the only region that didn't have a Healthy Families program, so we're expanding into the Sahtu. However, we don't know, we haven't made a final decision on which communities we will be going, whether we're going to spread it out into three communities or two communities or all in one community. We haven't made that final determination yet. We'll work with authorities to decide that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: I do appreciate the fact that we have certain regions that don't have all the fundamentals of the healthy families programs. You'll see a lot of my questions here today is that I'm trying to make sure that we're spending the right dollars in the right areas, and making sure that all communities, large and small, are benefactors of our promotion and prevention budget, and that we're not just picking certain areas for that. Clarity is important.

My second question has to do with the Cancer Strategy, which is about \$200,000 which is being added into. As the Member for Weledeh indicated, this is a partnership with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and Public Health Agency of Canada, as well as the University of Alberta. Can we get some clarification that this strategy is basically going to be designed more so in Fort Good Hope or Fort Resolution, or is this going to be only for the South Slave communities where this money is going to be spent?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'll refer that question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. A lot of the initial work is going to be based in Fort

Good Hope and Fort Resolution, with the request from those communities that they had high cancer rates, so we've determined that at least Fort Resolution does have higher cancer rates than normal and that Fort Good Hope was marginally higher than the other communities within the Sahtu. There is going to be some work done in there, but the understanding and the plan is to expand to all of the communities so that this work is occurring in all communities where we're looking at cancer prevention through lifestyle changes, early detection through appropriate screening. That's our objective with this money.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: I do appreciate that we are looking at areas I know the Member for the Sahtu is very adamant. I've worked alongside the Member looking at those cancer rates. I guess my question is, out of that budget of \$200,000, what percentage of that budget is really adhered to early detection through screening?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't have that information with me as far as the percentage. I would say that more of the money would be spent on the prevention through lifestyle changes and also looking at other things like the environment.

MR. DOLYNNY: I guess the purpose of my question is that we're putting money towards identifying cancer and getting cases that are not previously detected into a treatment program. I think, speaking from a health professional perspective myself, it's great to talk about issues, but by the same token, we have to identify people early on in the Cancer Strategy in order to create a wellness program with early detection. I'd appreciate if the Minister could get back to us in terms of what the breakdown is in the future. More of a comment.

My other question again has to earmark roughly what the Member from Weledeh indicated, that the Ministers Forum for Addictions for \$300,000, as much as I do appreciate the fact that going to communities and exploring more effective approaches is critical, especially for recovery of addicts and alcoholics, I do have to question the amount. That is a fairly rich budget to do some travelling here. Could we get some clarification? What municipalities, what townships, what communities will be impacted during the spending of that \$300,000?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The plan is to go to 50 percent of communities, 16 or 17 communities. We haven't picked the communities yet. I think once we have our forum, that we've gone to the Members to ask them to provide us names of people who would work well in this forum, and then I think we're going to go sit down with the forum and make a decision

on which communities we would have to attend to have the greatest impact.

MR. DOLYNNY: I do again appreciate the response. More detail in the future I think would probably be more appropriate for the Members here to understand exactly where these monies are going to be spent during the life of this budget.

Last but not least, I commend the department for again putting more money on the table for prevention and promotion. We've worked collectively hard, as Members of the Assembly, to expand these concepts into many of the different communities as we've mentioned in the House as well as today. Addictions and abuse doesn't have an address. We've identified certain areas where these extra monies can go. I am a bit concerned that I don't hear much about Yellowknife. Obviously, I'm a Member from Yellowknife and I'm sure my colleagues are also wondering. We suffer from various issues of abuse and addictions as well. Sometimes, by virtue of our urban placement, we're a funnelling effect for a lot of the abuse and addictions that we see in the Territories. Can we get reassurances that when we're looking at disparities, and looking at the distribution of dollars, that we're looking at all aspects of all community-based programs in the future? If so, can we get some assurances that there's some methodology and some financial acumen that goes with the prevention budget to make sure that urban centres are not forgotten? I am mentioning Yellowknife, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention places like Hay River and Inuvik as well. Can we get some reassurances that all communities, large and small, are being looked at when we're doing expansions of prevention and promotion budgets such as this?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Miltenberger. I'm sorry.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. The commitment is going to be, of course, for Health and Social Services to work with the Social Programs committee. This supp was pulled together as a result of a lot of work in the last number of days. The Members are asking for a lot of detail on things that we haven't had a chance to really put our minds to, other than to agree to the global figure and the general areas where the money is going to be allocated. I'll ask Minister Beaulieu if he wants to add further to that, but as we are with the Heritage Fund, and as we'll have the discussion on the energy money, there's a quantum global figure put in there, and the commitment is to work with committee to look at how that money and these funds are going to be allocated. I'll ask Minister Beaulieu if he wants to add further to that, Madam Chair, with your indulgence.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. I agree that just on pure numbers it's highest in Yellowknife. On a percentage basis, they're probably one of the lower communities that are suffering from addictions. Issues with addictions and mental health, and so on, are fairly high on a percentage basis in the small communities. The intention, though, is that if we go down the list here, there are fairly good supports within the city, as well, as it is in some of the regional centres, but especially here in the city where we have most of the doctors living. The Minister's Forum on Addictions is a part of the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, which a lot of the work in that action plan will affect the city of Yellowknife and the regional centres. Healthy Families, we're expanding that. We have a Healthy Families program in Yellowknife and we're expanding to other communities. We're trying to go into every region.

The cancer work, as far as cancer screening, we are picking up 45 percent of cancer at stage 1 cancer. The majority of the good ability to screen cancer is in Yellowknife, not in the outlying communities. We're trying to put a system in place so that we're easily screening cancer outside of Yellowknife as well, but again, the doctors are here in Yellowknife and so on.

With the whole area of early childhood interventions and health and early childhood development and so on, again, lots of the services are here. We have lots of nongovernment organizations in the city. The city's not being forgotten. We're just trying to expand outside of the city to try to provide equal supports outside of the city. There is actually quite a bit of support here already, as far as a lot of nongovernment organizations and so on, we we're trying to, kind of, provide a service outside that's just not there right now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Next, I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to follow up where I left off with the Minister's Forum on Addictions and hark back to my original point at the same time. The Minister invited Members to nominate people to this forum and we were pleased to do so. That work has been on the go for some months now, and this new money was just identified in the last few days. I'm asking the Minister is this, sort of sleight of hand or fancy footwork, in fact eroding any tentative sense of trust that might have been developing between Cabinet and committee?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I've heard the sleight of hand phrase used several times in the House in last few weeks, and I think it really borders on

unparliamentary because of the insinuation that might be imputing a motive about that, so maybe we should just be careful about the sleight of hand. Fancy footwork sounds a lot nicer. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. We've been dealing in good faith here with committee. This is new money. Everything we've done is here before the House and transparent. I'll ask Minister Beaulieu if he wants to speak further to the Ministerial gathering that he's got planned, but I appreciate your guidance, as well, in terms of going forward. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Like I said, the Minister's Forum on Addictions makes up a part of the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, which we'll be tabling in the House tomorrow. We have had consultation with Standing Committee on Social Programs on that action plan. This \$300,000 is what we think we need in order to carry out that portion of the action plan. I think that we're here requesting that money. It's not been spent. It's not something where we've advised individuals that they would sit on the forum. If the Legislative Assembly decides not to approve this portion of the budget, then we'd probably develop the action plan without the forum.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate your comments on the term sleight of hand. I'd like to try and use that appropriately, because I do agree with your comments that it is kind of accusatory. This program, the Minister's Forum on Addictions, was clearly in process as part of this year's fiscal budget. We were participating in it. We had been invited to participate in it. We were participating in it. Committee recommended 900,000 new dollars for new programs. Cabinet has shifted that request and allocated those new dollars into old, existing programs. I'd like to know from the Minister why should this not be regarded as sleight of hand.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Somebody will have to give me a definition of what sleight of hand means. It sounds like trickery. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. For the purposes of this discussion, it was requested that we put more money back into Health and Social Services. We agreed to a number, 1.2 or so million dollars. The Minister of Health and Social Services has laid out where they would propose to spend that money, and we're having the discussion today about the approval of

the quantum number and new money that was being put into these different areas. We've talked about some of them already, the Heritage Fund, the emergency response money, and we're going to talk about others in a bit here.

The Minister has indicated that if there are discussions and this particular proposal for this forum doesn't go ahead, that money, unless it's cut out of this supp by this Legislature, will stay in there and will be spent appropriately, pending the outcome of those discussions.

Once again, I'll as the Minister of Health and Social Services if he can speak to the specific question about this forum was in the works before this money was voted and the Member is asking if, in fact, there is some untoward chicanery going on here or shell game that we're moving money around, laundering it or whatever. I'm not sure what sleight of hand means, but it does impute that we're doing something untoward that wouldn't stand scrutiny, and I don't think that's the case. We are here with new money, but I'll ask the Minister to speak further to that very specific question by Mr. Bromley.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The \$300,000 is, in the opinion of the department, new money. It is not something that this is an action plan that we are developing now. Like I said, it will be tabled in the House tomorrow. Yes, it has been discussed with the committee. We think that this forms a very huge part of our Prevention and Promotion Strategy. It is one of the bigger parts, aside from the wellness plans and so on. We have some other stuff that is in the works, like the community wellness plans which are funded by the federal government, that we are working on now. This is something that we are intending to fund it internally by the GNWT. It was put in here because we consider it to be a big part of the prevention and promotion. It was not budgeted anywhere previously.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I have a motion in preparation. I wonder if we can wait until we are done on this. What is the process here? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Groenewegen): What is the wish of the committee with respect to taking a brief recess while a motion is prepared for Mr. Bromley? What is the wish of the committee? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Groenewegen): We will have a short recess to allow that to take place. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Okay, committee members, when we took a brief recess, Mr. Bromley had the floor. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that \$300,000 be deleted from the activity community health programs, operations expenditures.

---Interjection

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Bromley has the floor. Order! Can we have order please? Mr. Bromley has the floor. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Yes, that will be fine right now, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Menicoche:

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. This whole budgeting cycle, committee on this side worked really hard with Cabinet to institute some funding. We made our impact on the budget. Often this side, when we get some wins, like in particular this time we got I think here in Health and Social Services overall I think we got, that was not previously authorized, \$1.267 million and it was hoped that we'd have a nice, good dialogue about how to allocate these resources. I think the feeling on this side is that government, in its infinite wisdom, is saying okay, there's extra money so we're going to spend it.

Well, that's not how we see it, Madam Chair. When they say "we," it's different than our "we." We as an Assembly, whereas we as Cabinet sometimes they get unfocused like that. So we're a little bit upset on this side, Madam Chair, but I can say that the Member is upset enough that we can consider a motion to delete this particular line item of \$300,000.

I can say that it's not a line item; I was mistaken. The appropriation process speaks overall to \$1.267 million, but I think it's in the details where government is proposing an expenditure of \$300,000 for a Minister's Forum on Addictions, and that's something we certainly disagree with strongly because we never had our input.

The feeling is that we got the money as an Assembly, we didn't get money for Cabinet. So it's not up to them to be starting their own priorities. I think the priorities should be us and the Assembly, and working with committee as well.

So I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Health to challenge us not to approve it if we didn't like it, and we're certainly prepared to do that, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Okay, thank you. We are on supplementary appropriations, operations expenditures, Health and Social Services, community health programs, not

previously authorized, \$1.267 million. Minister Miltenberger.

HON MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Let me reassure the Legislature that what we're voting on today is, as the Member for Nahendeh said, \$1.267 million. There are two different pots: one for \$900,000 and one for \$367,000, and once that is voted, then there will be opportunities for discussion as there will be on the energy money, how do we move forward with that.

The Minister of Health was asked to look at putting more money into early childhood development. He's come up with some suggestions. Clearly, what this House is voting on today is that global number and the commitment here is, as we go forward to our normal processes of committees working with the departments, we'll have opportunities to resolve how that \$1.267 is being spent.

There have been some areas that I sense agreement, the cancer screening and those type of things. On this one item, the hope would be that we will leave the money in the global figure and we'll have that broad discussion going forward.

It's not an attempt to pre-empt any input or involvement of committee. It was an attempt to lay out a proposed roadmap going forward for that money, listening to the strong debate about the essential nature of the early childhood investments. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. I think that's the type of dialogue we're looking for – willingness – and not to say this is the way it's going to be done. We worked hard for the last three weeks and it's just that kind of openness and dialogue we're prepared to continue on. It's just that we need on record here today that if we're not happy with this \$300,000 ministerial forum, that government won't proceed with it.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. The commitment is to that discussion, so that it's clear what the final determination is going to be. Our commitment is to have that discussion. Our commitment is to hopefully keep all this money in the budget so that we can have the discussion; and if the money is gone, then it limits the discussion. If the money stays in the budget, then you have room to do other things. So our hope is similar to the Member for Nahendeh, that we have that discussion going forward to resolve this, but we need the resources collectively to do that together. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. We have a dialogue and that's what we'd like to hear, and I'm pleased to be moving forward with the supplementary discussions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Department of Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community

health programs, not previously authorized, \$1.267 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. It sounds like a good discussion and good consideration may be on its way here for these dollars. Just picking up on the Minister's mention of early childhood development funding, the phenomena we are dealing with extends into that; for example, paying for child care inspection services. It was obviously a routine part of this government's responsibilities and commitment under the Auditor General's program. So I assume that his willingness to discuss this and have significant committee input extends to all new dollars. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just need clarification. As a matter of practice, we have the discussion about new money. The only reason we're here is because of this discussion, that we did have to get agreement on this. We are going to be starting the business planning process where we will be having that renewed discussion, not only about new dollars but all existing programs. That's a given as well. So, Madam Chair, I'm not quite clear what further assurance the Member is looking for.

MR. BROMLEY: Well, to be specific, early childhood development dollars, which have been found internally, some of which are being directed to inspection of child care facilities. This came out in the Auditor General's report, where it was found that it was not doing proper inspections and not doing proper safety procedures. In fact, fire exits were blocked, and toxic chemicals were easily accessible by children and so on and demanded directive that the government respond to that. Now, somehow the new dollars we have achieved for early childhood allocation are being profiled as delivering that sort of routine government responsibility rather than being into new programs.

The dollars for energy initiatives, I don't think there's anything like that. The Minister said we could have a discussion on that. It's odd that that is being parked during the summer season. So that discussion won't take place until September, but at least there's the grade point to be discussed there. That's the sort of thing I was thinking of, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I would like to recognize the clock and rise and report progress, but I will allow Minister Miltenberger to first respond to this and then I will rise and report progress. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, is it too late to make a motion that we extend to conclude the business before this House?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Yes, it is. Would you like to respond to Mr. Bromley? I am giving you an opportunity to do that.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair. If committee is interested on energy money and wants to meet somewhere over the course of July or August, we're more than interested to do that. In regard to the detail of how the reallocated money is going to be spent in early childhood development with Education, I'd ask, Madam Chair, with your indulgence once again, if Minister Lafferty could respond to that about some of the concerns raised by Mr. Bromley. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. We are fully aware of the Auditor General's recommendations that were brought to our attention. We are fully implementing the recommendation with all the action plans that will be before us. We are serious about the inspections and we are doing what we can to follow through with each and every one of them. We were given some instruction on focusing more on early childhood development, so that's what we're doing with our internal resources. We will be focusing on that as one of our priorities.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I will recognize the clock. It is 6:00. I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, colleagues. Can I have the report from the Committee of the Whole, please, Mrs. Groenewegen?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 27-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, and would like to report progress. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to go back to item 20.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-17(3), Commissioner's Opening Address: Creating the Conditions for Success; Tabled Document 17-17(3),

Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 7, 2010-2011; Tabled Document 18-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2010-2011; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act; Committee Report 1-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 2-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters (Reversion)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, I'll call you back to order here. Mr. Miltenberger, do you have witnesses you would like to bring into the Chamber?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll proceed. We're trying to see if they're still in the building. If not, I will proceed without them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Duly noted. Sergeant-at-Arms, if they do come in, we'll get you to escort them in and we'll introduce them at that time. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just continuing on from where we left off there, my point stands. As the Minister of ECE said, these new dollars are proposed for expenditure on items we were clearly assured during business plans would be addressed through existing dollars. How could we not do our inspections on day care centres? The Minister agreed and said that would be funded. The other one was the early childhood framework. We were well along on that. That was a work in progress. Obviously, there were dollars for that. Now, these new dollars we identified for new additive work in early childhood are being re-profiled to existing programs. Obviously, nothing would hurt me more than to delete these hard fought for dollars, but that's the issue we're on about here, and why I think we need the Minister's assurance that we will be having some discussion on these things for meaningful committee input. I think the phenomenon, I guess I would call it fancy footwork and we don't want it to continue. It undermines our trust and our ability to work together effectively. That's the assurance I'm looking for from the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Before I allow this to proceed, your question is not involved with the supp page that

we're on right now. I would ask that if you reframe your question in accordance with page 5 on the expenditures in question. I'll turn it back to you, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the issue here is not the exact expenditure; it's the issue that's raised by the proposed expenditures. In the early childhood example, for example, those are a re-profiling of internal funds. The issue is the same. It's fancy footwork that re-profiles existing programs as new programs. That's why I thought if we could deal with it, we really should deal with it all together here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): We'll get that question answered by Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The same conditions or approach applies to the reallocated money. There was a request made for specific things. My recollection was there were a number of very specific things agreed to. The use of internal re-profiling of money to some positions, some centres, some other work, and so I am committing to this process both for the internal reallocation of funds as well as the funds that are here before this House, that there will be an opportunity to have that discussion. I'll ask Mr. Lafferty if he wants to speak further to that. We have been trying to come to an understanding on a way forward with the committee's request, so I do believe there is room for that type of discussion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Mr. Miltenberger, I'll decline that. As I said earlier, we were talking hypothetical from the Member. You've already made that commitment, so we will not do that. Mr. Lafferty has already answered that question in a previous response. I'll get you to introduce your witnesses to the Chamber, please.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have Mike Aumond, deputy minister of Finance; Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar, deputy secretary to the FMB.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Mr. Kalgutkar and Mr. Aumond, welcome back to the Chamber again. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I respect your wishes there. Unfortunately, the Minister of ECE spoke the opposite of what the Minister of Finance said, but as this is the Minister of Finance's budget, I will trust that he will work to ensure that that process is fulfilled through all our discussions on these new and re-profiled dollars and leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Page 5, Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, community health programs, not previously authorized, \$1.267 million. Total department, \$1.267 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 6, Justice, operations expenditures, activity, not previously authorized, legal aid services, \$47,000. Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$355,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$402,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 7, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I see we're addressing the Collective Agreement between the NWT Teachers' Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories. I know that we have other agreements that have been in progress, the UNW, the doctors and so on. Is there a reason why those are not coming forward at this time, or will we be expecting those to come forward in the future and when? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The doctors were dealt with through the regular process. This is being done with a sup, and the UNW, which is currently being ratified, will come forward in the fall through a supplementary appropriation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Again, page 7, committee. Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, department, subject, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, activity, not previously authorized, education and culture, \$782,000. Total department, not previously authorized, \$782,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 8, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, department, subject, Environment and Natural Resources, operations expenditures, activity, environment, not previously authorized, \$1.700 million. Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.700 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that we've concluded consideration of Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. At this point, I'd like to thank the Minister. I'd like to thank our guests for joining us today. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort

our witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you very much.

Mr. Menicoche, what is the wish of the committee?

COMMITTEE MOTION 11-17(3):
CONCURRENCE OF
TABLED DOCUMENT 27-17(3),
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2012-2013,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 27-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, be now concluded, and that Tabled Document 27-17(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. Carried.

---Carried

Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): A motion is on the floor to report progress. The motion is order. The motion is not debatable. The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, committee.

MR. SPEAKER: May I have the report of Committee of the Whole? Mr. Dolynny.

Report of Committee of the Whole (Reversion)

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 27-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, and would like to report progress and that consideration of Tabled Document 27-13(3) is concluded and that the House concur with those estimates and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do you have a seconder? Thank you, Ms. Bisaro.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Tuesday, June 12, 2012, 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
 - Bill 5, Legal Aid Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 2-17(3), Commissioner's Opening Address: Creating the Conditions for Success
 - Tabled Document 17-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 7, 2010-2011
 - Tabled Document 18-17(3), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2010-2011
 - Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
 - Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act
 - Committee Report 1-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories

- Committee Report 2-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report

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, June 12, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

